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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

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- ▶ Family History Diary
- ▶ Shelf Life: what they were reading
- ▶ To-do list
- ▶ More tips for using Ancestry.com

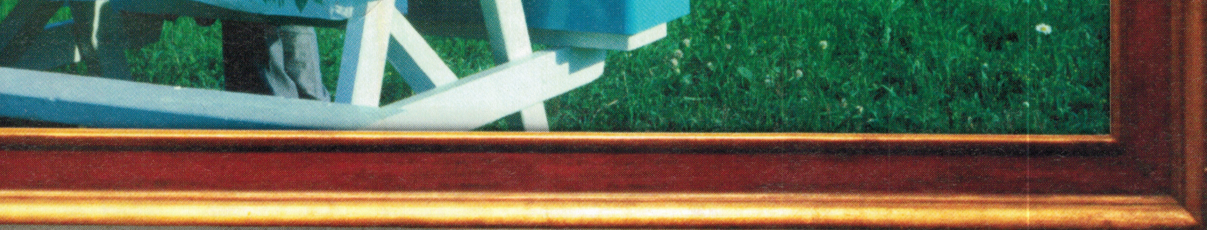
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VOLUME 27, NUMBER 1



LUNCH IS SERVED

Orphans at a Dr. Barnados home in Stepney, England (c. 1926), enjoy a hot lunch. Did the children in your family tree do the same? Learn more about their early years through the advice of our team of experts, who provide you the ins and outs for locating those elusive records of childhood. In this, our second annual research special issue, you'll discover where to look, what you'll find, and how to learn more from online records at Ancestry.com, so you can get a clearer view of the formative years of the relatives who came before you.

22 Oh, the Game Kids Play

Our experts show you where to look for the children in your family tree. We give you how-tos to help you find and access records created at birth, hospital records, church records, school records, adoption information, and details about orphan trains. Plus, learn more about childhood records created in Germany, France, Italy, and the UK.

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BY JENNIE KAUFMAN

Cholera. Yellow Fever. Tuberculosis. Before the days of public health, public mortality was a frightening part of urban life.

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Back in May/June, when I mentioned a list of 300 places to find personal history, I had no idea how many of you would request that list. So, over the course of 2009, my editor's notes, now Lou's Clues, will feature my updated, expanded, more modern version of that list. Here's the first installment—home sources. You'll find a printable checklist version on our website, <www.ancestrymagazine.com>, as well as an option to add your own favorite places to the list.

—Lou

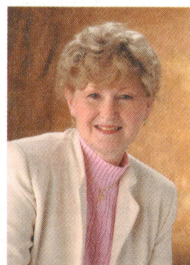
Lou's 300 (plus a few) Clues

WHEN MY FIRST GENEALOGY INSTRUCTOR insisted we begin research with "home sources," I knew I was doomed. On my wedding day, we moved 1,400 miles away from my home. I was sure I hadn't packed any heirlooms or clues.

But I was wrong. I had my baptism certificate, which included the name of a cousin who had been my sponsor. I'd never met him, but I tracked him down through the post office. Through letters, he shared stories about the father I never knew. He put me in touch with his mother, whose letters during the next year were filled with family information I'd have never found otherwise.

I learned two big lessons: first, "home sources" are valuable, whether from your home or someone else's; second, act right away—my newly found aunt died within months of passing those clues about the past to me.

Since then, I've benefited from wonderful sources other relatives had in their homes. Old yearbooks and photographs were obvious treasures. But less obvious ones were a police badge that helped identify the right man in city directories, insurance papers that offered insight into my mother's health history, and a book by William Shakespeare in which my father had written his college address. We'd had no luck finding him in the census, but that address led us right to him.



Loretta A. Szucs

LORETTO (LOU) DENNIS SZUCS
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
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HOME SOURCES

Address books
Adoption papers
Application copies (for jobs, schools, organizations)
Autobiographies
Autograph albums
Awards
Baby books
Baptism/christening records
Bibles
Biographies and biographical sketches
Birth certificates
Birthday books
Cassette tapes, DVDs, and videos of family members
Cemetery deeds
Christmas letters
Citizenship/naturalization papers
Contracts
Death certificates
Deeds
Diaries
Diplomas
Embroidery
Employment records
Family e-mails
Family histories
Family newsletters
Family tree charts
Funeral books and records
GEDCOMs/family trees
Journals
Heirlooms
Home computers
Hospital records
Insurance papers
Jewelry with engravings, insignias, or photos
Leases
Letters (old and recent)
Letters of administration
Licenses
Marriage certificates (civil and religious)
Marriage licenses
Medals and trophies
Membership cards, papers, pins, insignias
Memorial cards
Military records and certificates
Missionary records
Newspaper clippings
Obituaries
Online sources including message boards
Passports
Pension records
Photographs
Postcards
Resumes
School records
Scrapbooks
Service medals
Social Security cards
Tax returns
Telegrams
Titles to homes, cars, etc.
Traditions/family stories
Wedding invitations
Wills
Yearbooks

FAMILY HISTORY SOURCES CHECKLIST

300

IT TOOK MORE THAN
CHISEL AND HAMMER.

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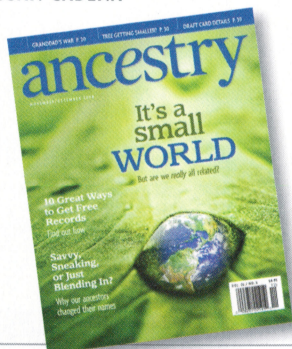
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MAGAZINE



Selective Memories

I was intrigued by “Identity Crisis” (November/December 2008), but I believe some ancestors changed far more than their names. Case in point: my step-grandfather William Goerke. His 1888 naturalization petition says he arrived in America on 20 May 1866, landing at New York. Yet years of searching passenger lists for arrivals on and around that date have yielded me no likely leads, even after allowing for variations of his name. Maybe after 22 years his memory was a little fuzzy—even for an event as important as his arrival in America!

SUSAN CADENA



Check Locally

Regarding Carol Rainey’s search for her father, Jackson Grimm (“Identity Crisis,” November/December 2008), I have run into the same problem a couple of times and found a solution that works most of the time. First, I noticed she went to the state level to obtain a birth record for Jackson Grimm. Instead, Carol should determine what county Jackson was born in and write to the vital records or health department for that county. She should also try a historical society for the area in which Jackson was born. If he had siblings born in the same town there may be some information in the historical archives.

ALVAN T. AUSTIN

Wrong Site

I was reading *Letters&More* (November/December 2008) today and tried a website listed in the letter “Montana in California?”—GenBank.com—but it wasn’t correct. Was there a typo?

KRISTINE LAKENAN

Editor’s note: The site is actually <www.genealogybank.com>. Sorry for the confusion.

Stitching a Story

The sewing machine featured in *Out of Style* (September/October 2008) looks very much like the one my mother, Mae, used to make her first doll clothes when she was about 6 years old (1918). Mae and her older sister Beulah (about 8) had found the dolls they were going to receive for Christmas, and by Christmas morning they each had made a complete wardrobe for their dolls. It’s amazing

what memories one little photo can bring to mind.

NORMA HAMMETT GARDINER

What’s He Doing There?

Barbara Tripp’s photo (*Backstory*, November/December 2008) is most certainly of a Croix de Guerre, the war cross with palm. But the officer wearing it is not a 17th Bomb Squadron commander; he is a lieutenant (senior grade) in the Armée de l’Air—the French Air Force. Being an amateur aviation historian and manager of a small (very small) aviation museum, I was intrigued by her photos, which I assumed were taken in France. However my reference books say there were three 17th Bomb Squadrons in existence and none of them served in France, so which of the three is it? The airplane behind Major McCarthy is the answer: it’s a North American B-25 Mitchell medium bomber. Only one of them flew those: the 17th Reconnaissance Squadron (Bombardment). They were formed in February 1942 as a Light Observation Squadron with a variety of aircraft, then converted to bomber in April 1943 at Laurel, Mississippi. They were sent to New Guinea, then moved on to the Philippines, then to Japan for the Occupation until 1946. Why there is a French officer in the South Pacific is a puzzle.

RALPH GILPIN

Editor’s note: We forwarded a copy of Ralph’s note to Barbara. Here’s her response:

“My dad, Major McCarthy, was in the 17th bomb Group 37th squadron (not 17th bomb squadron). And he flew B-26 Marauders in the European

SEND IT IN

Something on your mind? Send your comments, letters, and opinions to editor@ancestrymagazine.com

theater in France and Austria. I am so sorry. On rereading what I sent to you I see I accidentally wrote 17th bomb squadron."

Thank You

The article about my grandfather ("The Man or Woman Who Would Be King," September/October 2008) was very well done. Paul Washington, in my opinion, would have made a wonderful king. Thank you for taking an interest in our family.

SHELLEY S. RIEGERT

Heart-Wrenching Mortality Schedules

My heart was touched by Jana Lloyd's description ("DIY Family History" September/October 2008) of the child's death from inflammation of the lungs, as listed in the 1870 Wisconsin mortality schedule. However, on that single page, I noted one-third of the 18 deaths were of children between 0 and 1 year old. Other causes of death: "Unknown," cholera infatum [sic], summer complaint, whooping cough, and "spasms teething." Talk about tears.

CARI THOMAS

Untangling the Web

New at Ancestry.com

Want to stay updated on the latest releases at Ancestry.com? Select "Customize" in the upper-right corner of your Ancestry.com homepage. Then choose "What's New at Ancestry" and click "Add to your homepage."

Even more from Ancestry magazine

Visit <www.ancestrymagazine.com> today and you'll find more than just archives: you'll also get fresh new content and online-only features.

Look in January for the debut of web-exclusive columns, including Nichole Martinson's *Family History Diary* blog, where you can read about Nichole's search for her grandmother in Germany and offer your own suggestions about where she should turn next.

You'll also find downloadable tools, including templates and executive editor Lou Szucs's checklist of 300+ places to search for family clues. Plus, use our quick links for sending a letter to the editor, contacting our subscriptions department, or submitting recipes and other features directly to the magazine.

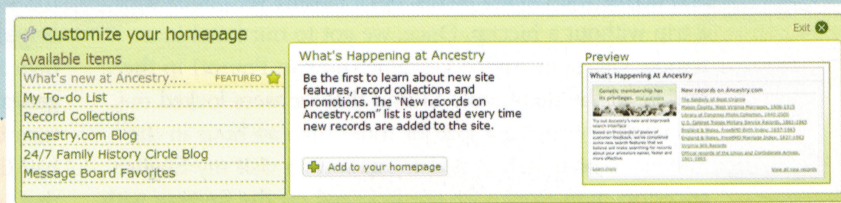
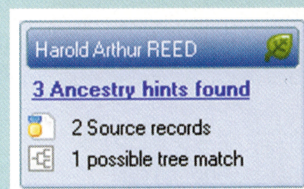
FTM Answers

Q: Why do green leaves appear next to the names of some individuals in my pedigree tree and not others?

A: These green leaves, called Ancestry hints, appear when *Family Tree Maker* finds records on Ancestry.com that are possible matches to an individual in your tree. Move your mouse over a leaf to see how many records and family trees are found. To view the records, simply click the leaf.

If no leaf appears, it doesn't mean that Ancestry.com has no records for your family member; it simply means that *Family Tree Maker* can't find any exact matches at this time. Note: Ancestry hints only appear when your computer is connected to the Internet.

Have a question about *Family Tree Maker*? Send it to Tana L. Pedersen, author of *The Official Guide to Family Tree Maker 2009* and *The Family Tree Maker 2009 Little Book of Answers*. You can reach her directly at ftm@ancestrymagazine.com.





When Genealogy Goes Bad

BY LESLIE ALBRECHT HUBER

I LOVE VISITING MY ANCESTORS' hometowns in Europe and across the United States, but I haven't yet pulled off a trip without a hiccup. Once, we got to our hotel in a remote village in Alsace-Lorraine (now in France) in the middle of the night, only to find that we were locked out. On another trip, I got lost for more than an hour in the Swedish countryside. And on our way to visit my English ancestors' hometown, we got stranded on the freeway with a flat tire we couldn't fix. These experiences have taught me to plan carefully—and then be flexible.

I learned the importance of being organized when I arrived at the special collections section of an archive to find it had closed 15 minutes earlier. I got to review this lesson when I traveled across the country to a library but left the key document I needed for reference back home.

There was the time I discovered the need to express my interest in family papers out loud. It happened after my great-grandmother died, and my great-aunt told me all about the stacks of love letters that my great-grandparents had written each other. When I asked to see them, she said it was too late: she'd burned them because she couldn't

imagine why anyone would ever want them.

I've seen over and over why you must always check the original record for yourself. Most recently it was in my own family tree, one that was traced by a professional genealogist and dated back to 1596, that I found a wrong turn in 1766. This discovery, unfortunately, came after I had dedicated the first chapter of a book to a family line that wasn't related to me at all. On the upside, the book hadn't been published yet.

All in all, I've had a lot of amazing experiences in my family history research and more than my share of the kind of experiences in which everything falls into place. But it's still those less-than-stellar moments that stand out in my mind.

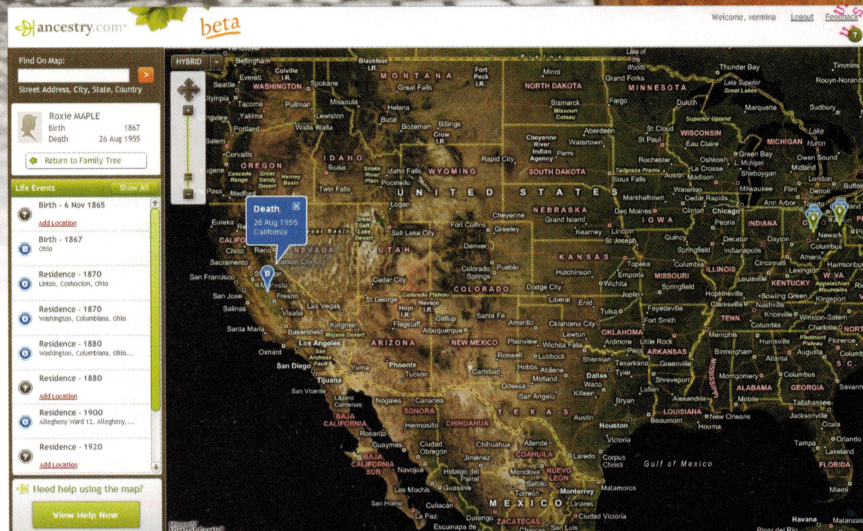
And while I'm sure to hit more bumps as I continue down the road, hopefully the lessons I've learned will let me steer clear of the bigger ones.

LESLIE ALBRECHT HUBER is a freelance writer and family history lecturer. Her website <www.understandingyourancestors.com> offers information about tracing Western European ancestors.

Starve a Cold, Feed a Maggot

Think old-time diseases sound scary? You may be more frightened to learn that old-time remedies, from leeches to maggots, are infiltrating modern medicine. Mud therapies and bloodlettings are making a comeback too, treating everything from staph infection to e. coli. On the preventive side, it's colloidal silver, taking a cue from the silver tableware once used to ward off bacteria and diseases (even the plague). Today, silver's antimicrobial properties come in a liquid supplement. But be cautioned: too much can give your skin a bluish glow, one of the rumored ways that aristocrats earned their "blue-blood" nickname.

And if you're still trying to determine what St. Vitus Dance was and how—and why—someone would want to cure it, visit <www.ancestrymagazine.com> where we've gathered links to websites featuring old diseases, disease names and modern equivalents, and remedies.



Want to Follow Their Footsteps?

ANCESTRY PLACES, A NEW feature on Ancestry.com, lets you see your ancestor's migration path. Just find a person in your Ancestry.com family tree, click on a location associated with that person (birth, death, any other location), and Ancestry Places shows you that person's life events on a map. You can also have Ancestry Places, with the help of Microsoft Virtual Earth, plot cemeteries, courthouses, and other sites of genealogical interest. More options are planned for the future.

Clip and Save

FORGET STICKY NOTES. Now you can save a link, text, or image from any website directly into your tree at Ancestry.com. Just install the new, free Ancestry.com toolbar; then when you're browsing the Internet and find something that fits with your research, simply hit the **Save+** button. The toolbar helps you connect the discovery to any person in your Ancestry Family Tree without leaving the Web page you're on and also provides quick links to all your favorite Ancestry.com pages.

<[HTTP://TREES.ANCESTRY.COM/TOOLBAR/DOWNLOAD.ASPX](http://trees.ancestry.com/toolbar/download.aspx)>



When You're Ready to Recharge

Sometimes things just don't seem to be working. Ancestors don't want to be found, you've entered a new realm of research, or you don't really know where to turn at all.

Maybe where you should look is to the experts. And the best place to find them and other family historians looking to share ideas and answers? At family history conferences, seminars, events, and jamborees.

You don't have to be a pro to attend. Listen during class time; talk and learn with other researchers just like you during the breaks. You'll leave with tips, how-tos, new ideas, and a new network of people to turn to.

Each year offers a host of events to choose from. Some are local, some are not. We've jotted down a few of our favorite large events planned for 2009, but there are plenty more. Contact your local genealogy and historical societies to find events near you, and search the Internet for groups that focus on your ethnic areas of interest. Or log in to your favorite travel site and make your reservations now to attend one of the national or regional events listed here.



Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy
12-16 January 2009
Salt Lake City, UT
www.infouga.org

Who Do You Think You Are? Genealogy Society Show
27 February-1 March 2009
London, England
www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.co.uk

Computerized Genealogy Conference
13-14 March 2009
Provo, UT
<http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgeneal/>

Ohio Genealogical Society 2009 Conference
2-4 April 2009
Huron, OH
www.ogs.org

2009 Gene-A-Rama
3-4 April 2009
Middleton, WI
<http://wsgs.wetpaint.com>

Alberta Genealogical Society Conference
18-19 April 2009
Edmonton, Alberta
<http://abgensoc.ca/events.html>

New England Regional Genealogical Conference
22-26 April 2009
Manchester, NH
<http://nereg.org>

St. Louis Genealogical Society Family History Conference
2 May 2009
St. Louis, MO
www.stlgs.org/fair.htm

National Genealogical Society Family History Conference
13-16 May 2009
Raleigh, NC
www.ngsgenealogy.org

Samford Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR)
14-19 June 2009
Birmingham, AL
www.samford.edu/schools/ighr

Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree
26-28 June 2009
Burbank, CA
www.scsgenealogy.com/

International Conference on Jewish Genealogy
2-7 August 2009
Philadelphia, PA
www.jewishgen.org/jgsp/2009Conference.htm

Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and NE Conference
7-8 August 2009
New Britain, CT
www.pgscnec.org/events_conferences.html

Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference
2-5 September 2009
Little Rock, AR
www.fgs.org/conferences

Texas Hispanic Genealogical and Historical Conference
24-27 September 2009
Dallas, TX
www.losbexarenos.org/30thAnnualTexasGenConf.pdf

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Conference
14-17 October 2009
Cleveland, OH
www.cgsi.org

International Black Genealogy Summit
29-31 October 2009
Fort Wayne, IN
www.blackgenealogysummit.com

Reclaiming Your Territory

BY ELIZABETH KELLEY KERSTENS, CG, CGL

THE MORE YOU RESEARCH, the more your stacks of papers grow. Problem is, when the family papers join the daily mail and household records, your desk surface becomes an organizational nightmare. What's a family historian to do? If you're going to spend the day organizing, you need to pick up the proper supplies to make the most efficient use of your time. Start by making a trip to your local office supply store. First stop? The container aisle, where you'll select a recycle container large enough to make a dent in your piles. Unlike papers documenting the lives of our ancestors, much of the paper that comes into our homes is unwanted and eligible to fill your new recycle bin. Dump the junk mail and catalogs right away because, never fear, you'll have more next week. But until you get home, use the container as your shopping basket to hold the other five items you need to effectively beat your office into submission.



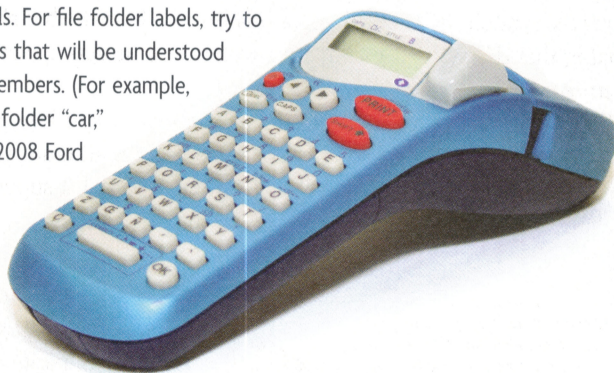


CHOP IT UP

Before you toss, make sure you destroy any personal or financial data to prevent identity theft. A shredder is the answer, but save yourself some money and space (and help save the environment at the same time) by picking up a hand-crank shredder or a set of shredding scissors.

TO LABEL IS TO KNOW

Labeling your files and shelves is an art form. Try to select a label maker that allows you to easily print labels without being connected to your computer. Portable, battery-operated label makers are readily available and often work with different sizes and colors of labels. For file folder labels, try to use common terms that will be understood by other family members. (For example, would you label a folder "car," "automobile," or "2008 Ford Focus"?)

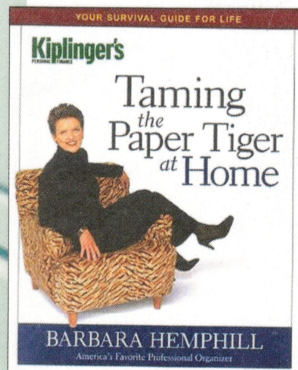
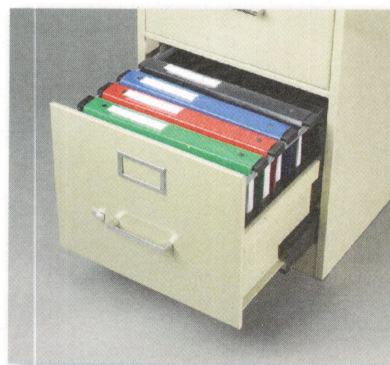


A RESTING PLACE FOR YOUR PAPERS

Assuming you already have a usable file cabinet, you can attach a magnetic or hanging document pocket to the front or side. Use the pocket to temporarily store papers intended to be filed in that cabinet. But beware: pockets have a tendency to fill quickly if left unattended.

HANG IN THERE

To store and protect all of those research documents, consider picking up some hanging ring binders. Available in different widths, these binders have tabs that pull out on the top and bottom, allowing them to hang from the frame inside a file cabinet—saving shelf space for books. Use with top-loading sheet protectors.



READ ALL ABOUT IT

Authors have addressed organizing ideas from every angle imaginable. The one book that stands the test of time is Barbara Hemphill's *Taming the Paper Tiger at Home*. The advice is practical and easy to adapt to your specific requirements. Taking the time to read this book may be the best organizing tip you've ever received.

ELIZABETH KELLEY KERSTENS, CG, CGL is the creator of the software program Clooz, the electronic filing cabinet for genealogical records, and the former editor of Genealogical Computing. She is the executive director of the Plymouth Historical Museum and a retired U.S. Marine.

Passing the Pierogi

BY SHERENE NICOLAI

MY GRANDMOTHER, BLANCHE STRYZEWSKI FINTAK, was born in Milwaukee in 1894. When my mom married my dad, Blanche's son, in 1954, she learned to make pierogi from Blanche, who made them on Fridays when Catholics weren't supposed to have meat. Since most of my grandmother's five children, Dad included, and their children remained in Milwaukee, Grandma Blanche made a lot of these.

My mother told me that it was difficult to reproduce the recipe at first because Grandma had specific cups, spoons, and bowls that she used for cooking that didn't exactly match up with a regular cup or tablespoon measurement.

Eventually my mom was able to adapt the recipe, and it became a favorite dish of ours when I was a child. I don't make them all that often, so my pierogi aren't as pretty as Mom's, but they still taste as good. I suppose with cheese and dough fried in butter you can't go wrong.

SEND IT IN

Have a heritage recipe you want to see in *Ancestry* magazine? Submit it at www.ancestrymagazine.com/submit. Published recipes earn \$100.

Filling:

1 pound of dry-curd cottage cheese
1 egg
1 onion, finely chopped
Salt and pepper

Dough:

3 cups of flour
3 eggs
Salt
1/2 to 3/4 cup water
A pot of boiling water, and butter and a pan for frying.

Mix filling ingredients together in a bowl. Set aside. Combine dough ingredients in a separate bowl, mixing until you have a coarse dough that you can roll out; add more flour if necessary. Divide the rolled dough into 8–10 pieces. Place a mound of filling in each piece and wrap the dough around the filling, pinching the seams shut. With a slotted spoon dip each pierogi into boiling water for a few seconds to seal the dough. Place in a frying pan with butter and slowly fry the pierogi approximately 10 minutes per side until golden brown.



Picture Perfect

BY JANET BERNICE JEYS

KIM FOREMAN AND HER SISTER BECKY visited Disneyland and saw photos being taken everywhere, of and by families, friends, or sweethearts on their honeymoon. As those pictures were being snapped, unknown people wandered in and out of the background, inadvertently captured in someone else's keepsake.

"How many people all over the world are in other people's pictures?" Kim wondered. And with that, AreYouInMyPhoto.com, a photo-sharing site in which most uploaded photos feature a mystery person, was born.

Visitors can upload photos to the site to try to discover who's in their snapshots or peruse other photos to look for their own missing relatives. The site also helps people reconnect with family and friends they've lost contact with over the years.

Kim's family has had its own success with the project. Shortly after starting the website, Kim posted some of her father's photos from his army days in the

Aleutians. To drum up interest, she posted a message on an Aleutians Internet bulletin board asking for help in identifying the mystery people. One of the site's visitors, Ed Sidorski, who was previously unknown to the family, sent some of his own photos to be posted as well. When Kim looked at them, she saw something completely unexpected.

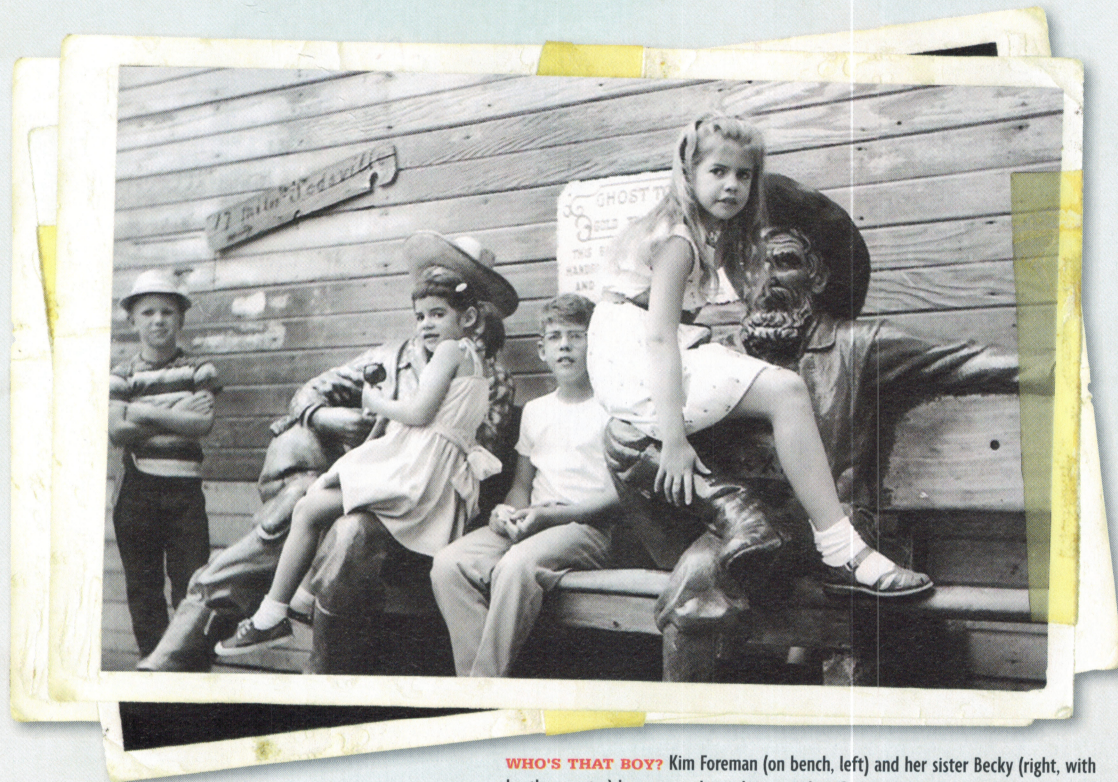
"The third one I opened showed two men clowning in a camp kitchen. Though the picture was out of focus, I immediately recognized my father as one of the two men," says Kim. "It is not an exaggeration to say that my heart started pounding. I was even shaking a little from the shock."

Sometimes pictures include the names of all known individuals. But most of the time, the photos posted contain at least a few people whom the photo's owners just don't know. That's the story behind the photo below. It's a snapshot of sisters Kim and Becky and their brother at Knott's Berry Farm. But who is the mystery boy at the edge of the photo? That's what they want to know.

<www.areyouinmyphoto.com>

SEND IT IN

Do you know someone with a unique approach to family history? Drop us a line at editor@ancestrymagazine.com and tell us all about it.



WHO'S THAT BOY? Kim Foreman (on bench, left) and her sister Becky (right, with brother, center) have started a website to identify mystery people in old photos. They've even included some photos of their own, like this one with a unknown onlooker (far left).



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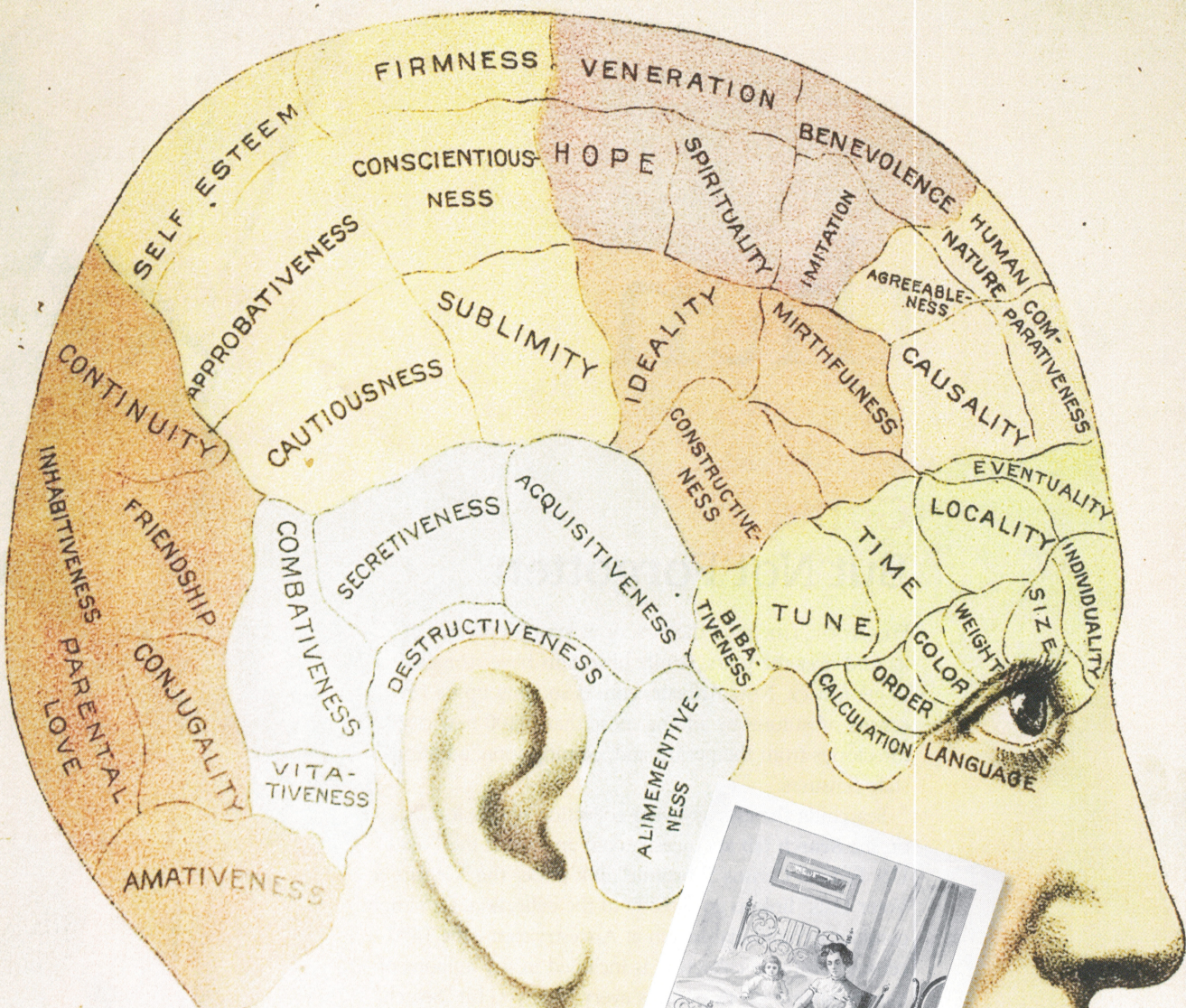
then

Gone. But Not Forgotten.

FIRE TOOK THE 1890 CENSUS, or at least 99 percent of it. And over the years, family historians have struggled to get it back. Now Ancestry.com is souping up its 1890 census substitutes by adding more than 1,100 new city directories from the period and, coming soon, additional state censuses.

Searching the ever-growing collection is simple. Click on the **Search** tab at Ancestry.com and select the “1890 U.S. Federal Census Substitute” link under the “Census & Voter Lists” link to go directly to the collection. Or simply conduct a traditional search at Ancestry.com—the 1890 census substitute collection is included in the millions of names Ancestry.com peruses every time you hit “Search.”

Vitalogy: A Healthy Tome for All Time?



"IN THIS AGE OF EDUCATION and progress, the Science of Health is no longer the exclusive possession of a profession, but is made an open book for those who have the wisdom to learn..."

Before there was WebMD or Ask-a-Nurse, there was *Vitalogy*, Or, *Encyclopedia of Health and Home*. Readers could turn to Drs. George P. Wood and E. H. Ruddock's 1897, 1,000-page, homecare tome for advice on everything from sleep and sun baths to child rearing or the proper diet for becoming plump.

ONE LUMP OR TWO? Those bumps on your head were once thought to be linked to your personality as this phrenology chart from the 1907 edition of *Vitalogy* illustrates.



Be a Fashion Detective

BY BETTY KREISEL SHUBERT

HOW CAN YOU USE STYLE to help you date a 19th-century photo of a female relative? Look to the shape of skirts, hats, and sometimes even sleeves.

We'll begin in the 1840s, when photography first became available. Keep in mind that fashions appearing late in a decade often continued into the next, and that differing looks may have shared the same time frame.

► **1840s:** Skirts are modestly full. Bodices are V-shaped. Shoulders droop. Closely spaced pleats around the waist make skirts full.

► **1850s:** Skirts become wider, silhouettes round. Birdcage-shaped hoops eliminate horsehair crinolines (petticoats). Skirt fullness is achieved by widely spaced pleats around the waist; sleeves are wide at the wrist with lacy undersleeves.

► **1863–1873:** Triangular silhouette. The birdcage is replaced by cone-shaped hoops. Flat-front, gored skirts and princess-line dresses eliminate unnecessary gathers around the waist.

► **Late 1860s–1875:** Skirts seemingly can't get much wider. Hoops are abandoned. Fullness is pulled to the back and *voilà!* The bustle is born. Skirts under the bustle remain full.

► **1875:** The bustle reaches maximum size then disappears (for a while). Narrow skirts appear.

► **1875–1883:** Fancy A-line skirts trimmed around and around emphasize the lower back of the hip or knees. Two-piece outfits dominate, with long, tailored jackets fit like corsets.

► **Early 1880s:** The bustle returns, this time over an A-line skirt. Bustles are not as bunched as ones worn in the 1870s.

► **Mid- to Late- 1880s:** A wire contraption worn inside a skirt pleated all the way around creates a wide, broad-hipped silhouette. A deeply draped front apron ends in a simple "waterfall" back drape. I call this the *rump-hump-bump*. This is the final demise of the bustle.

► **The Gay '90s:** Leg o'mutton sleeves date this decade. In the early 1890s, sleeve puffs are small, growing huge between 1895 and 1898. Later they change to a small puff sewn separately atop a narrow sleeve like a lollipop on a stick. The silhouette takes an hourglass shape. Hello, Gibson girl!

The round birdcage hoop (aka the cage-crinoline). Born: 1853. Died: 1863. It was replaced by the cone-shaped triangular hoop (1863–73).



Oh the GAMES Kids Play

Take a look at a picture of yourself as a child.

Now fill in the following:

“Wow, I was _____.”
ADJECTIVE

Goofy?

Adorable?

Weird?

Precious?

Just plain trouble?

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK when you see a photo of an ancestor as a child?

Chances are good that your family history research focuses more on your relatives as adults than when they were children. But wouldn't it be wonderful to find out what their earliest years were like? The good, the not-so-good, the exciting, the routine, and most of all, the times we hear so little about but that played such a huge role in the person each of our ancestors became.

In this, our second annual research special, we've detailed ways to flesh out a fuller picture of a childhood. From birth to school to religion and rites-of-passage, we've enlisted a handful of go-to experts to tell you where to look and what you'll find as you try to assemble the pieces that make up your ancestor's early life.

But be forewarned—finding a childhood is a tricky game. It's hide-and-seek, this time played by the masters: kids themselves.



When It Happens

Birth and the Records Created

BY JANA SLOAN BROGLIN, CG

EVERY STORY HAS TO START SOMEWHERE. So where do you turn for the start of a life story? To the records created at birth. Here are a few to look for, what they say, and where to find them.

Civil Records

First things first: start with a birth certificate. But remember, there's a good chance your ancestor's home state didn't start recording births until the 20th century. Massachusetts and Connecticut, however, recorded vital records at the town level very early—Connecticut started in 1650; Massachusetts's birth records date back to the Pilgrims.

Maryland's Assembly provided for the recording of births by the clerk of "every court" in the mid-17th century. While few of these records exist, those that do are indexed at the Maryland State Archives. Maine has five towns—Biddleford, Kittery, Kennebunkport, York, and Wells—that have records dating from the 1600s. More than 200 of Maine's towns began recording vital events even before statehood in 1820.

It is important to remember that all states did not begin recording birth records at the same time. Ohio's early records date from 1867, while Montana's begin in 1895 and Arkansas's in 1914. Even though a state may have had a law mandating records, that doesn't mean counties and districts complied (for example, a 1682 Pennsylvania law resulted in few, if any, births being entered into the civil records until the state finally instituted statewide registration for birth records in 1906). Check with local historical societies to determine the likelihood of early birth records, where they would be kept, and how you can access them.

What Information Do These Records Contain?

Early birth records (those dating from the 1620s through the late 1800s) contain rather sketchy information. Birth records created after state mandates tend to be a bit more reliable and may contain the name of the child, sex and race, name of the parents and their residence, father's occupation, plus the birth date and place of the child. More current records may contain both parents' occupations and their places of birth. *Red Book* by Ancestry offers a complete listing of state vital registration dates. Access to records varies from state to state.

Shipboard Births

If your ancestor was born while immigrating to America, you may be in luck—births aboard ships were often noted

Quaker Birth Records

Early Quaker records are rich with information on births. Not only are the births listed, along with parents and the monthly meeting to which the family belonged, but following the family may show migration from one monthly meeting to another in a different state. Check William Wade Hinshaw's *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*. His six volumes cover the Carolinas, Tennessee, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, and Virginia.



Slave Birth Records

Birth records of slaves in the United States were mostly kept as part of the plantation records where the birth took place.

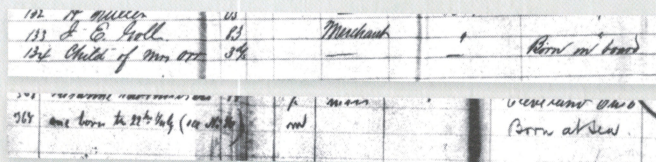
Fortunately, a number of plantation records from Southern states have been microfilmed. The largest collection is the "Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations," also known as the Stampp collection. Check with a local university library for the Stampp collection or order microfilms of the collection from a local LDS Family History Center.

Also search for the names of plantation owners in guides to the Stampp collection such as the *Bibliography of African American Family History at the Newberry Library* to find possible journals, account books, inventories, or diaries.

Individual former slave states may also have resources unique to them. The *Birth Index of [Virginia] Slaves, 1853–1866*, for example, is an index created from original manuscript records of births submitted as required by the Commonwealth of Virginia beginning in 1853.

In it, you'll find the name of the owner, the slave's name, mother's name, date of birth, and county of birth, among other things. The index was published by Heritage Books in 2007 in five volumes as *Virginia Slave Births Index, 1853–1865*. Look for it and the Stampp collection guides in libraries near you through <www.worldcat.org>. Or contact your local library for assistance with interlibrary loans and other resources.

— LISA ARNOLD



at the end of passenger lists. You may be able to quickly locate a shipboard birth in the passenger list databases at Ancestry.com by inputting keywords such as "birth" or "born." Note that children may have been listed by first name only on the manifest or by no name at all.

Midwives and Doctors

Consider looking for a doctor or midwife's journal. Either may contain details about the mother, child, date and time of birth, and other information. Check with local historical or genealogical societies for the names of doctors and midwives in the area at the time your ancestor was born and to inquire about the possibility of journals. Also search for the doctor's or midwife's name in *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC)* <www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/oclcsearch.html>.

Newspapers

A birth announcement with a child's name, date of birth, weight and length, parents' names, even grandparents' names, may have been published in a local newspaper, although few were published prior to the 20th century.

Right at Home

Family Bibles have long recorded births (or at least birth information), although the information was usually jotted down after the fact and may not be completely accurate. Other attic items that may mark a child's birth include needlework samplers and quilts. Additionally, diaries and letters written by pioneer ancestors, people crossing the plains to the West Coast, settling in the Midwest, or moving a few counties away may also offer information regarding the birth of a child. Search for journals and diaries you don't have by contacting historical and genealogy societies, NUCMC, and university and local libraries. You may also find one in the hands of a distant cousin via a message board.

JANA SLOAN BROGLIN, CG, Vice President of Membership for the Federation of Genealogical Societies, specializes in Ohio research.



Patient Records. Patience Required.

BY LORETTO D. SZUCS

EXECUTIVE EDITOR, ANCESTRY MAGAZINE

OVER THE YEARS, FAMILY RESEARCHERS have watched as numerous records have been snatched from reach because of privacy concerns. But just when I thought hospital records were among the most hopeless cases, a friend told me that he was able to access his own birth and childhood records. Why? Because the public hospital where he was born was closed, and the patient records were transferred to the state archives.

Try It Yourself

While hospital records remain among the hardest to track down or get at, a surprising number are waiting to be found in federal, state, and other archives. Putting the words “hospital records + archives” and the locality of your interest in your favorite search engine may be just what the doctor ordered. Additionally, a number of older records have been microfilmed and can be located in the Family History Library Catalog, available through FamilySearch.com.

What You Can Find

To get an idea of what's available in different places, I did some poking around. Here are a few items I found:

The Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, the first hospital in the United States, was founded by Benjamin Franklin and Dr. Thomas Bond in 1751. It was a charity hospital where the British looked after their wounded during the Revolutionary War, where the Union cared for its Civil War casualties, and which is still recognized as one of the nation's top hospitals. Their research policy is similar to policies of other institutions:

The Pennsylvania Hospital closes non-mental health patient records for 100 years. Records older than 100 years are open for researchers to view. All non-patient related material is closed for 75 years from its creation. Certain restrictions might still apply on specific records.

The website for Children's Hospital of Boston is a good reminder that patient records are only part of what you may find in institutional collections. In addition to Admission Records, 1869–1950, the archives for Children's Hospital also includes Medical Staff Records, 1882–1921; School of Nursing Records, 1889–1994; Autopsies, 1902–1904; Department of Diseases of the Nervous System Patient

Logs, 1888–1914; and Discharge Records, 1891–1914. You can also find New England Pediatric Society Records, 1908–46, and several other “Related Institutions Archival Collections” among their collections.

Some of the oldest hospital collections might well have remained completely hidden were it not for the work of volunteers. “Confederate Hospital Number 4, Wilmington, North Carolina, 1861–1865,” is a wonderful example. The records provide the name, rank, unit, and company the individual served in, residence, reason for hospitalization (disease or battle wounds), death date if applicable, and sometimes a list of personal possessions.

These are just a few examples, but there are plenty of other records out there waiting to be found. But before rushing off to research in any hospital collection, be sure to find out what the access policies are.



READY TO SERVE. A male medical attendant stands at the open rear door of a Kings County Hospital ambulance.

Cemeteries and Memorials

Don't let it be said that because children were lost to death more frequently in previous centuries that they were mourned any less.

One indicator of this parental pain can be seen in the tombstones raised as memorials to deceased tots, toddlers, and young ones.

While children's markers vary in size, it is not uncommon for children's stones to be larger than those for adults. It was also a less frequent occurrence for a child's grave to go completely unmarked, while so many people who died later in life had no one with the right combination of resources and grief to provide a memorial marker.

Whether a small marble stone topped with a lamb (a symbol of Christ's innocence) or a full-sized stone with a poem or even a marker shared with a parent, these memorials help us put families in a historical context.

Though they do not commemorate our direct ancestors, the memorials to these children give us insight into parents and other family members who survived to become our forebears.

—JAMES M. BEIDLER



Christening

and Other Religious Rites of Passage

BY JAMES M. BEIDLER

CHURCH RECORDS THAT NAME CHILDREN “offer us the opportunity to track our ancestors back in time with records that make statements about relationships in families,” says John T. Humphrey, a nationally known researcher whose book *Understanding and Using Baptismal Records* (available at <www.pagenealogybooks.com>) gives the lowdown on the most important type of church records that mention children—christening or baptismal records.

Baptism

Many groups perform baptisms while the child is an infant, and most of these organizations have been recording baptisms for centuries. The theology behind the ordinance varies, but the impact of the records for the family historian can be significant in a couple of ways.

First and foremost, baptisms “make statements about relationships,” as Humphrey says, because the record of baptism notes the name of the child and the child’s parents (perhaps I should say “almost always,” since there are some frustrating instances in which the mother is called “and wife” or the child’s sex is given but not his or her name).

Additionally, baptism usually required one or more “sponsors” or “godparents” to be part of the ceremony. These sponsors were often aunts, uncles, or grandparents and noted as such in the record—giving the researcher additional relationships to work with. Tradition often called for the child to be named for a sponsor, which, fortunately, is typically the case in those instances when the child’s sex is listed but the name is left out.

Sunday School

Sunday schools started as a 19th-century phenomenon that have since become almost universal. Often, Sunday schools have records of their own—enrollment, attendance, and contribution logs, as well as certificates and awards (some Sunday schools would award perfect attendance “pins,” onto which bars could be added well into adult life). Some churches began their Sunday school process by adding an infant’s name to a church cradle roll.

Later, in the 20th century, churches began holding vacation Bible schools for a week or two in the summer, in which mementoes and certificates were often awarded.

Confirmation

Most Christian churches that do not baptize infants perform a “believer’s baptism” when the individual is old enough to commit to the faith of his or her own accord. In addition, churches that do practice infant baptism often have a ceremony called confirmation in which an individual “confirms” his or her faith after studies ranging anywhere from six months to two years. Ages at which this happens vary, but participants are typically preteens or in their mid-teens.

This often marks the point when an individual becomes a voting member of the church.



A typical confirmation ceremony tradition is a picture of the class. Some churches sponsor a homecoming or “confirmation reunion” periodically that encourages those who have left the church to return and reminisce about their time in the church.

Family History Significance

Religious records about children offer a family historian several benefits:

- Records such as baptisms show family relationships
- Finding records of the family in a particular church usually confirms where the family was residing
- The names of confirmation classmates or those who attended Sunday school together put our ancestors’ lives in a social context and also may provide additional names to research for more information about your ancestor or relative

How to locate these religious records depends on the type of record as well as whether a particular family was a saver or a thrower-outer.

Finding the Document

Baptisms and confirmations are official acts of a congregation and therefore are almost always preserved by the church—either at the local congregational level or by an archives run by whatever larger church organization a congregation is affiliated with. Pre-20th-century baptismal records from many churches have been published; however, in many cases, confirmation listings have not survived or have not been published.

Items relating to Sunday schools and vacation Bible schools are more ephemeral and almost never formally archived, though a local church may hold onto copies of things such as attendance books.

As for attendance certificates and other memorabilia, head for the attic and look through home sources as a starting point. Remember to look for other religious trinkets as well. Gifts were and still are given at a child’s first communion and confirmation; oftentimes these gifts are religious in nature (a rosary, a Bible, a small necklace or medal featuring a patron saint). Some of them may have even been engraved with the child’s name or other identifying information.

JAMES M. BEIDLER writes primarily topics relating to Pennsylvania, Germans, and (not surprisingly) Pennsylvania Germans. His e-mail is james@beidler.us.

Jewish Childhood Records

Jewish children’s religious records are few and far between. Although bar mitzvahs and bat mitzvahs are often gala affairs today, in the past, they passed without fanfare. Few records were kept.

Ritual circumcision of baby boys, however, holds the most promise for religious-related childhood records, since community circumcisers (*mohels*) recorded each instance in their personal *mohelbuchs*. Always in Hebrew, *mohelbuchs* open with customary prayers and blessings, followed by circumcision dates, places, and children’s, fathers’, and godparents’ names.

However, few *mohelbuchs* have survived. *Mohelbuchs* rendered unusable through use were ritually buried to preserve them from profanation. A great many *mohelbuchs* were also destroyed during the Holocaust. According to popular lore, even if *mohelbuchs* were intact at their owners’ deaths, they were often buried with the *mohel*, testimonies to lifetimes of charitable work.

Jerusalem’s Jewish National and University Library and the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People hold, between them, several hundred 17th- and 18th-century *mohelbuchs*. While some are originals, most are microfilmed from private collections around the world. New York’s Jewish Theological Seminary Library also holds a small number. Others are scattered in archives across Europe.

Circumcision data often appears in civil Jewish male birth records. *Yizkor* (memorial) books sometimes mention ritual circumcisions, too.

—MELODY AMSEL-ARIEL





At the Top of the Class

BY PAULA STUART-WARREN, CG

ODDS ARE GOOD THAT AT SOME POINT during childhood, your ancestors went to school, so why not find out more about those ancestors as children by searching school records?

The records of many public, private, religious, reform, vocational, orphanage, and other schools can reveal facts such as a pupil's middle name, birth date, birthplace, mother's maiden name, previous school attended, grades, and siblings' names and ages.

Local Histories

County and town histories usually include a section on education in the area. You might learn where the first Lutheran school was located and its name changes over time. Your ancestor's home might be the one where the first public school classes were taught. The history may list students; diaries of teachers, students, and school officials may mention your ancestor.

How Did Great-Grandma Annie Meet Your Great-Grandfather?

The local newspaper might have a story at the beginning of the school year that mentions where the town's two new teachers were boarded. In early school years, it was rare to find a married female school teacher. Annie, for example, boarded at the Griffin family home on Elm Street. Research shows that the Griffins had a son Samuel.

Minutes

Minutes relating to public schools were taken at school board, county commission, and PTA meetings. Generally these include when and where the meeting was held, names of members present (and possibly those not present), descriptions of actions taken, motions made, and results of votes. School boards conducted business that produced financial records and statements and records on teachers employed, with name, grade of certificate, school term, and salary. These records and those of a clerk or

timeline

BY TANA L. PEDERSEN

It's Child's Play

LONG BEFORE MILTON BRADLEY or Parker Brothers, kids managed to find ways to have fun and celebrate being young, regardless of circumstances. But just look at how much—or how little—those games have changed over time.

2000BC

Males have been trying to show off their physical prowess for thousands of years, and ancient Egyptian boys are no different. Young men spend their free time playing tug of war, throwing spears at targets drawn in the dirt, and wrestling. A favorite game is similar to modern-day hockey, except it uses palm tree branches and papyrus and leather balls.

400BC

Children in ancient Greece would feel right at home on any playground today. Pottery and vases created in fifth-century Greece depict children playing on seesaws and rope tree swings.

treasurer may include notes on payments made to your ancestor for building or repairing the schoolhouse. They may occasionally contain items relating students and teachers.

County Superintendent/School District Office

These records may include school directories, organization of school districts, family census records, teachers, records of school business, school budgets, expense accounts, reports of county superintendents to state superintendents, examinations and grades, lists of graduates, permanent record cards of pupils, records of delinquent students, transfer cards, and enrollment cards.

Attendance Records

The attendance record usually gives names of teacher and students, number of days in class, classes offered, and may include grades, names of parents, and school enrollment statistics. Attendance may vary depending on whether the school was in a heavy snow area, children were needed for planting or harvesting, or children had to work to help support the family. Some of the records do include a reason for missing school, which can be as simple as being sick, taking care of an elderly grandparent or new baby in the family, or that most-intriguing "reason unknown." Look carefully for specific notes written by the teacher.

School Censuses

The frequency of these enumerations varies widely from locale to locale. Many begin in the mid-19th century, but you may find an area that didn't require them until

the 20th century. These records may include names of parents or guardians; relationship designations such as son, daughter, adopted, stepchild, or orphan; sex; age; race; date of birth; and address. Not all include names of both parents, but in some that do, a mother's maiden name may be included.

Many are enumerations of all children in the district of school age. Generally this spans ages 5 through 16, though some include younger and older children. Younger children were included for future budget and space planning.

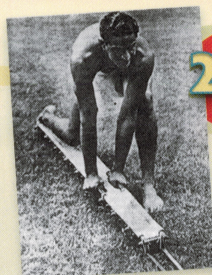
Books

School district records, especially from the late 19th century forward, may include lists of textbooks ordered and used in the classroom. As schools began to have libraries, records often list books ordered for the library, and sometimes you can even find lists of books checked out and by whom. Who knows, you could discover which books your grandmother read in school.

School Publications

Historical libraries and archives may contain school newspapers, and colleges and universities often have their own archives. Daily and weekly newspapers or newsletters often list school events, club activities, awards, sports scores, and other related news. The name you are seeking might be on the honor roll in the last issue of the school year. Yearbooks are most often found for high school and post-secondary education, but some do exist for elementary schools. If the school does not have its own archive or alumni office, check area libraries for older

200BC



If you think bungee jumping, ice climbing, and skateboarding are extreme sports, consider

this: more than 2,000 years ago, Hawaiians are lava sledding (*he'e holua*). Sledders lie (or if they're daring, stand) on a 12-foot-long, six-inch wide wooden plank and hurl themselves head-first down a lava rock mountain. Racers reach speeds up to 70 miles an hour and can travel as far as a mile. The tradition continues until 1825, when visiting missionaries condemn the activity.

1200s



Almost every child knows how to play Chutes and Ladders.

What they don't know is that they're playing a game that was created in India almost a thousand years ago. The ancient Hindu game is called *Moksha Patamu* or Snakes and Ladders. In this original version, ladders stand for virtues such as generosity, faith, and knowledge; snakes represent evils such as drunkenness, greed, and lust. To make sure the kids don't have too much fun, the game has more snakes—and more ways to sin—than ladders.

1550



Albert the Fifth, Duke of

Bavaria has a miniature of his palace, the Residenz München, created. The replica has four floors, 17 doors, 63 windows, and is complete with furniture and accessories. English visitors find the "baby house" so appealing they commission replicas that show off their own homes. Within 200 years these dollhouses become playthings for children.

issues. And remember that Ancestry.com is continually adding to its yearbook collection.

Records from Clubs, Teams, and Events

Your ancestor or other relative may have joined the Camera Club, Future Homemakers of America, the high school band, French Club, National Honor

[School records of New Hirst School, 1896-1926](#) New Hirst School (Ashington Sheepwash and Woodhorn, Northumberland)
[Jefferson Township and Marion Township, Pike County, Indiana, school histories and directories of school officers & teachers](#)
[Returns from U.S. military posts, 1800-1916](#) United States. Adjutant General's Office
[School district enumeration reports, 1912-1936](#) Ellis County (Oklahoma). Superintendent of Schools
[School census records, 1915-1934](#) Texas County (Oklahoma). Superintendent of Schools
[Wilson County, Tennessee, school census records, 1888-1956](#) Wilson County (Tennessee). Department of Education
[Lambeth Board of Guardian records, 1845-1932](#) Lambeth (Surrey). Board of Guardians
[School enumeration census, 1912-1919](#) Muskogee County (Oklahoma). Superintendent of Schools
[School census, 1898-1910](#) Idaho. Superintendent of Public Instruction (Kootenai County)

Minnesota Historical Society

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Record 2623 out of 7484

Location/Available	Minnesota Historical Society See State Archives Notebooks
Author	Goodhue County (Minn.). School District No. 93 (Florence : Township).
Title	Records, 1881-1905.
Physical Details	1 folder and 6 items.
Summary	Clerk's book (1885-1900), class record (1881-1890), and attendance register (1883-1905).
Finding Aids	Folder/item list available in repository; filed under Goodhue County: School District No. 93, Florence Township.
Subject	Students -- Minnesota -- Goodhue County -- Registers. Student records -- Minnesota -- Goodhue County. Florence (Goodhue County, Minn. : Township).
Subject	Registers -- Minnesota -- Goodhue County.
Genre Heading	
System Number	(MnHi-Ar)Local (MnHi-Ar)School (MnHi-Ar)C25 0800009816 800009816
Record Id	001711888
Format	<Collection> <Mixed Material>

Society, debate team, or student council. These clubs may have kept records of members and meetings, and not all photographs of club members ended up in a yearbook or newspaper. Sports team memorabilia may include newspaper articles, game tickets, rosters of players, and equipment. Programs from debates, plays, graduations, and pep rallies may be among the records.

Locating Records

First things first, contact the school and/or school district if possible to determine more about the accessibility and availability of older school records. If that's not possible, check the catalogs of area libraries, historical societies, and archives in locales and states where you believe the family attended school. The Family History Library has some school records. Check for published and manuscript materials through <www.worldcat.org>, a catalog of card catalogs for thousands of libraries. Also try Rootsweb.com and <www.usgenweb.com>. The record you need might be uncataloged and in the local history room of a library. A genealogical or historical society in the area may have published an article about local school records. A religious archive, religious order, or religious college or university may have records from schools of that denomination.

Are the Records Open for Research?

Accessibility will vary from state to state and locality to locality. Some areas allow access to anything more than 75 years old, while others have no restrictions at all. In some places, records may be in a huge warehouse with no research access. Contact the repository or school in

1560



In the Netherlands, the artist Pieter Bruegel the Elder paints a charming work called "Children's Games," which gives a glimpse into the lives of medieval boys and girls. Groups of little ones are portrayed climbing trees, playing leap frog, spinning tops, and shooting marbles.

1700s

"She sheared six shabby sick sheep." Say that quickly, six times in a row. Tongue twisters and riddles are just some of the ways that youngsters in colonial America amuse themselves indoors during cold winter months.

1766



English mapmaker John Spilsbury creates the first jigsaw puzzle—a wooden map—to teach children geography. By 1880, Milton Bradley manufactures puzzles specifically for children. The first? The Smashed Up Locomotive.

advance for any access or appointment requirements. Ask about obtaining photocopies or digital images of the records. Be prepared to find very few indexed or alphabetized records.

If You Don't Know the School

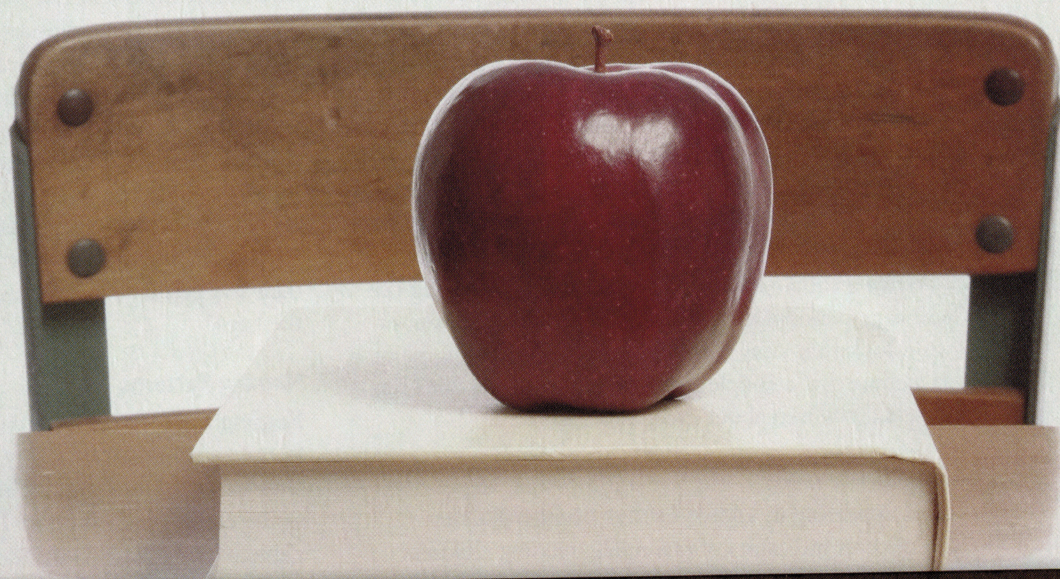
Check the front or back of city directories for school names and addresses. Schools with a religious connection may be listed with public schools. Ask at the local library or historical society about likely school names. Check maps from the time period for schools near your ancestor's home. Tax rolls may indicate the school district number. Even if you have a school name, it may not be the full name the records are cataloged under, which means doing some research on the school name and location. Check federal and state censuses at Ancestry.com for lists of students in boarding, orphanage, reform, or convent schools. Often the name of the school or institution is listed at the top of the census page.

The Reward

There's a feeling of exhilaration when you learn that your mother attended school in southern Indiana and that she was a great

student. New questions arise when you realize your great-grandfather was not able to (or chose not to) attend school as frequently as other pupils. Finding the record that gives Grand-aunt Tillie's birth date or the minutes she took as secretary of the debate club, learning that your grandma was not the straight-A student she always claimed to be, determining that your father's tale about walking five miles to school is about as true as his purported mathematical genius—these all give you insight into lives you may have already known, but never with this much detail.

PAULA STUART-WARREN still has her old report cards, at least the ones with good grades. She can be reached via her blog at www.paulastuartwarren.blogspot.com.



1953



A pack of cigarettes, matches, teams of two (one of each sex), and you're ready to play "Light the Cigarette" in New Zealand. The rules are simple. Partners stand across from each other, one with a cigarette, the other holding matches. The individuals with the cigarettes must run to their partner, get the cigarette lit, and return to the starting position, all without extinguishing the cigarette. The first team to complete the task wins the race.

1972




"Avoid missing ball for high score." These are the only instructions for the video game that inspires millions of teens (and adults) to flock to their local arcades in the 1970s. The concept of Pong is simple: use your virtual paddle to hit the ball over the net. Although not the first computer video game, it quickly becomes the most popular and sparks the craze for home video games that continues today.

2008

Zambia's children mimic the local wildlife and entertain themselves at the same time. The game is called *Banyoka*. Groups of six or more sit in a line and link arms around each other to form a snake. The goal is to slither to the finish line and remain connected while negotiating around trees, bushes, rocks, and other obstacles.

And across the globe, a professor from the University of Hawaii reignites interest the ancient sport of *he'e holua* (lava sledding). Racecourses are created on Oahu and the Big Island.



Notice When Something Is Missing

BY COLLEEN FITZPATRICK, PH.D.

EVER THINK YOU'RE MISSING SOMETHING—like an ancestor—but you don't know how to prove that he or she ever really existed?

Then it's time to get creative.

Searching for a missing child who may or may not have existed takes some unique skills, prospecting, and foresight. Take, for example, my *Clued In* column in the March/April 2007 issue of *Ancestry* magazine. It featured a cabinet card of a couple posing with three children. But odds are good that the couple had at least five kids. How did we know? The gaps in the ages between the oldest and middle child and between the middle child and the baby indicated that at least one additional child could have been born in each of these gaps.

While a couple may not have had children during certain time periods—perhaps the father was off at war, or work took him away from home—a good starting point is to assume that a couple from the 19th or early 20th century had children about every two years.

City Directories

Gaps appearing in known birth or baptismal dates are obvious indicators of potentially missing children. However, there are other common research materials not typically used for this purpose that can be surprisingly helpful.

How about searching for missing children using city directories? Missing children might be identified by carefully noting the addresses of the family through the years, along with family members living at those addresses. Sons generally began to appear in directories at the time they started their working lives. Subtracting 18 from the year a son first appears will provide his approximate birth year. Continuing this for all the sons may produce their approximate birth order. A gap of a few years when no new sons appear is a good indication of a missing daughter or a child who died young.

Growing Up

Missing offspring can also be identified even after they have grown up. In one case, I was able to trace a widow

through directories over a period of 30 years. As I jotted down the addresses of “Mary Lyons, wid. Thomas,” I noted who else was living at these addresses, even when the widow was not listed there.

I then searched for other addresses of these presumed new family members and then compiled a list of people who lived at these additional addresses. That's when I found several missing children.

Plus I had another clue: Mary appeared and disappeared in the directories every few years. Evidently, as she aged, her children (or other family members) took turns caring for her. Some members were not listed in the directories because they lived in other towns or because they were married daughters who were not listed under their maiden names. I turned to census records to fill in the gaps.

Naming Patterns

Naming traditions of a future generation can provide clues to missing children. In many cultures, children are named after parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles, according to the children's birth order. Do a little research on given name naming patterns associated with the ethnic origin of the family. See a pattern but a few names don't match? You may have found missing children from the previous generation (aunts and uncles).

Disruptions in a naming pattern can also be significant. Contrary to Irish tradition that dictates that the oldest son be named after his paternal grandfather, Bernard and Catherine named their oldest son after Catherine's oldest brother, Thomas. Since Catherine was much younger than this brother, and her father did not immigrate to the United States until much later than the rest of the family, the fact that she named her oldest son after Thomas instead of after her dad could indicate that Catherine regarded her brother as a replacement for her absent father.

Lessons Learned

Always be on the alert for something that is missing or “not quite right.” Gaps in information and disruptions of otherwise regular patterns are good clues to finding places

where missing children may be playing hide-and-seek with your family history.

Oh, one more thing: why does it matter that a child could be missing? Aside from the obvious—that you want a complete picture of the family—knowing that there were other members of the family could help you locate more information about the family member you're researching. To find the identity of the family pictured on the the cabinet card from March/April 2007, you might need to search for a couple with five children, not three.

COLLEEN FITZPATRICK, PH.D., principal genealogist for the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, is the author of three bestselling books on forensic genealogy and a contributor to *Ancestry* magazine. Reach her at <www.forensicgenealogy.info>.

Community Trend or Something Missing?

My Ulmers were unusual for a farming family living in Alsace. Although the name is common there today, Michael Ulmer; his wife, Anna; and their six children were the only Ulmers living in the village of Sigolsheim when church records began in 1664. According to their ages and dates of death, Anna had given birth to the oldest child, Magdaline, when she was more than 39 years old, unusually late for a farm wife to have her first child. Were there children older than Magdaline?

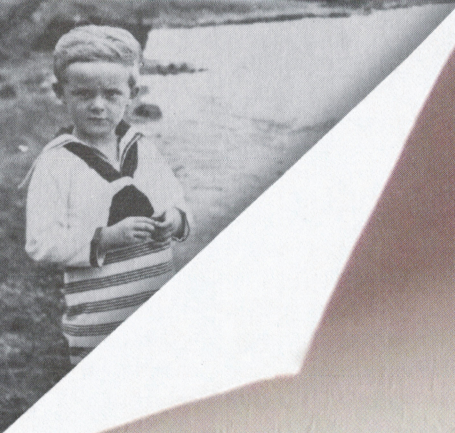
The Thirty Years' War ended in 1648 with the Peace of Westphalia. Alsace became part of France, creating great population upheavals on both sides of the Rhine River. Yet travel during this time period was difficult. A family would not normally travel alone, but with other families to share responsibilities and provide protection. Could this be a clue to the whereabouts of the missing children?

Church records told me that early Sigolsheim was composed almost completely of parents and their children, with the oldest child present in each family born late in his mother's child-bearing years, as Magdaline was. There appeared to be an entire population of older children missing from the village.

If the Ulmers were part of a refugee party that had abandoned offspring older than 16 to fend for themselves, they probably reached Sigolsheim in about 1650. That could mean the village was almost entirely composed of German families fleeing the consequences of the Thirty Years' War.

Using this theory, I then took my own research back across the Rhine to search for Sigolsheim's possible German refugees and their missing children.





When Your Roots Reach Elsewhere

Tracing a UK Childhood

BY ROBERT DEWSALL

WHETHER HEARTRENDING OR HEARTWARMING, details of our ancestors' early lives, whether in the UK or in the United States, can be hard to find. Records often show simply dates of birth or, sadly, an early death. Yet a little detail from a school or workhouse register can reveal how children lived and grew to start their own families.

Children in Church Records

The advent of church registers in 1538 meant children's baptisms began to be recorded. These records are invaluable to family historians, although few survive from the earliest period and coverage can be patchy. To discover whether registers exist for your parishes of interest and where to find them, consult *The Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers*, edited by Cecil R. Humphery-Smith, third edition.

Most registers have been deposited at the relevant county record offices, or they may be held by the incumbent of the church itself. If you can't visit either in person, consult the IGI (International Genealogical Index) at <www.familysearch.org>. You can get copies of originals you find on the IGI by contacting the county record office or requesting the microfilm at a local Family History Center.

Other great sources of baptismal records are indexes created by county or local family history societies (conduct an Internet search for town or county name + "family history society"). Most will have indexes available in printed, electronic, or microfiche form.

Civil Registrations

Civil registration of births started in England and Wales in July 1837 and became compulsory in 1874. These records are arguably the most important resources for family historians because they show the child's parents' names. Most records offices and Family History Centers will have a copy of the General Register Office's (GRO) indexes, from which you can obtain a reference number to order a copy of the certificate.

The GRO has indexed deaths and ages of those who died in England and Wales since 1866. The high infant mortality rates in the Victorian era mean these records

include a number of children. A quick search of a three-month period in my hometown shows that of six people named Smith who died, five were one year old or younger.

The complete GRO indexes for 1837 to 2005, along with images, can be searched at <www.ancestry.com> or <www.ancestry.co.uk>. Another fantastic, though incomplete, online index is available at <www.freebmd.org.uk>.

Separate from the main GRO indexes are the records of children born overseas to military personnel, in diplomatic missions, and even on ships and airplanes. These can be found in the same way as the main indexes or online at <www.findmypast.com>.

"Suffer the Children"—Parish and Poor Law Records

The 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act changed the old system of out-relief, where the poor would claim money from their parish while continuing to live in their own home. Instead, those who fell on hard times had to enter a workhouse administered by one or more parishes to claim relief.

Boards of Guardians administered the new Poor Law, and their records can be a rich source of information about children. Guardians recorded workhouse admissions and discharges, births, baptisms, and deaths, as well as new residents in Poor Law Schools. These records are kept in county record offices. Be sure to check bordering counties if your parish of interest lies close to a county border, or contact the county's archivist.

While Guardians records can be vast, they're rarely indexed. Virtually none exist online—though the London Metropolitan Archives has entered into an agreement with Ancestry.co.uk to digitize many of their collections, including their Boards of Guardians collections. They will become available online on Ancestry in stages through 2009/10.

Education, Education, Education

In 1870, a new Education Act set up school boards to provide education for children ages 5 to 11, although at a cost. Ten years later, another Act of Parliament made schooling compulsory for 5 to 10 year olds, and in 1891 the

Assisted Education Act provided funds so schools could stop charging fees. The age for leaving school was progressively raised to 11 in 1893, 12 in 1899, 14 in 1918, and 15 in 1944.

School admissions registers and logbooks can usually be found in county record offices. Admissions registers show the child's name and date of birth, names and addresses of parents, and details of previous schooling. School logbooks record day-to-day operations of a school and may include references to individual children, particularly those being praised for good work or punished for misbehavior. Children evacuated from British cities in WWII to escape German bombing can also be found among registers and logbooks, as they continued their schooling while away from home. You may also find details of examination results, changes of address, and other gems about an ancestor's early years.

Prior to the mid-18th century, education was a private affair, with middle- and upper-class children being taught at home. Boys sometimes went for further education at "public," fee-charging schools. The best known of these—Eton, Harrow, Rugby, and the like—often have printed rolls that contain at least pupils' names. Many of these are available from second-hand and antiquarian book dealers on the Internet.

As with public schools, a university education was generally for the privileged few, along with some gifted-working class children who obtained funding or scholarships. Oxford and Cambridge have published lists of alumni; you can find both online at Ancestry.co.uk.

Anecdotal Sources

Newspapers and publications such as parish magazines can provide fascinating tidbits, from articles about good boys and girls winning prizes for poetry to ragamuffins stealing and being dealt with by the courts. Even if you don't find one of yours, you will learn about the times and environment your ancestor was growing up in. The best sources are, again, county record offices and also local studies libraries.

Lastly, biographies and autobiographies written by people who grew up in the same time and area can help round out the picture. I found a wonderful book, *The Road to Nab End* by William Woodruff, which gives fantastic insight into how families, such as my wife's ancestors, grew up in the cotton manufacturing areas of Lancashire, even if it doesn't mention her relations by name.

ROBERT DEWSALL is the International Content Researcher for Ancestry.co.uk and spends far more time with other peoples' family histories than his own.

Hiring Out

Finding out about your foreign-born forebears' early years often requires a little sideways thinking and a good deal of hard work in the records offices, either in person or with the help of a good researcher. County records offices will often have information about specialized researchers in certain types of collections. These might seem expensive, but they will often be able to save you a great deal of time simply by being familiar with a specific collection.



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Finding a Childhood Through Ancestry.com

BY MARY PENNER

REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE 16? Caught between childhood and adulthood, most of us have entertaining memories of that raucous year.

But what were your ancestors doing when they were 16? Records focusing on the everyday lives of ancestral teenagers are sparse. Yet, by scanning various common records, you can assemble a picture of what your ancestors' lives may have been like—not just at 16, but at any age during their childhood.

Brandt at 16—Use Ancestry.com

I wanted to know more about Brandt McDowell's 16th year. Brandt turned 16 in August 1879. His mother died in 1875. His father died in November 1879. It's unclear where Brandt was during these difficult years, but one thing is sure. Just a few months after his 16th birthday, Brandt was an orphan. I turned to resources on Ancestry.com to reconstruct Brandt's circumstances at 16.

The Census Taker Knocks—Use Census Records

My search began with census records on Ancestry.com. When the census taker knocked on his door on 22 June 1880, 16-year-old Brandt McDowell, a boarder and a student, lived in the household of widow Margaret Gavitt in Stockbridge, Berkshire County, Massachusetts. In addition to Margaret and Brandt, eight others lived in the household: five of Margaret's adult children, two servants, and a man whose occupation was "man of all work."

The 1870 census for the Gavitt family showed 14 people in the household, and Margaret's husband, John, was listed

as a bank president. Given John's occupation and the horde of people under the Gavitt roof in both 1870 and 1880, Brandt may have been sharing quarters with a fairly affluent family in a fairly large house.

The 1880 census also showed that Brandt's closest living relatives, his grandmother and sister, resided together in St. Louis, far away from Brandt's teeming lodgings in western Massachusetts. Brandt appears to have been alone in a crowd.

Putting the Place in Perspective—Use Maps and Gazetteers

Next, I researched the town of Stockbridge. Starting with Maps, Atlases, and Gazetteers at Ancestry.com, I searched for "Stockbridge." The results included three promising prospects: the U.S. County Land Ownership Atlases and two gazetteers of Massachusetts.

Starting with the atlases, I found a Berkshire County Atlas from 1876. A map of Stockbridge shows Mrs. Gavitt's substantial dwelling and property perched on Main Street, right next to the cemetery—probably not what recently orphaned Brandt relished seeing when he gazed out his window.

Further down Main Street, I noticed an ample property labeled "Williams Academy." Was Williams Academy the reason Brandt was so far from home? I can imagine Brandt walking out the front door of the Gavitt home and meandering along Main Street toward Williams Academy.

Next, the gazetteers. One was published in 1849, too early for Brandt's timeframe. The other was published in

29		Norton Francis	20 M 20	Servant	1	Man of all work
30		Dolan Mary	20 F 30	Servant	1	Domestic Servant
31		Corbett William	20 F 16	Servant	1	Domestic Servant
32		McDowell Brandt	20 M 16	Boarder	1	Student & Boarder
33	419	Savage Albert B	20 M 40		1	Age for Steam Boilers
34		Sarah W	20 F 40	Wife	1	Keeping house
		Albert G	10 M 13	Son	1	At School

1874, right on target. The gazetteer summarizes Stockbridge's history and physical landmarks, which I compared to my handy map. It also mentions Williams Academy, noting that the institution incorporated in 1828.

A Kodak Moment—Use Photographs

On to the Pictures search page at Ancestry.com. First, I searched for “Williams Academy.” No luck. Next, I searched for “Stockbridge.” I discovered a number of photographs of the quaint village that included churches, tree-lined streets, bridges, mills, rivers, and homes. Even though most of the pictures dated around 20 years after Brandt's sojourn there, they still helped me see what he saw when he trekked around town.



All the News That's Fit to Print—Use Newspapers

Starting at the Ancestry.com Historical Newspaper Collection search page, I typed “Williams Academy” into the search box. Most of the results were from mid- to late-

20th-century newspapers. I checked each result anyway, and I found two articles, one from 1956 and one from 1973, that summarized the impressive history of Williams Academy.

What Have I Learned about Brandt's 16th Year?

I found Brandt mentioned in only one record, the 1880 census, yet the other resources create a vignette of what his life might have been like at 16. I learned he was miles away from his family, attending school, perhaps at the prestigious Williams Academy. I learned that he lived with a family who had a large home in a small, scenic town. By using census records, newspapers, photographs, a gazetteer, and a map, despite his name appearing only once, I now have a sense of Brandt's surroundings and his life at 16. And I can take the information I found at Ancestry.com and use it to help me find Brandt in other records to complete the picture.

MARY PENNER is a New Mexico-based family history writer, researcher, and lecturer. Reach her at <www.marypenner.com>.

Ciao Italy

More than 15 million Americans claim Italian heritage. If you're one of them, it's likely that sooner rather than later, your research will take you back to Italy. But what kind of childhood records will you find there?

- ▶ *Certificato di Nascita*—birth certificate
- ▶ Baptism records
- ▶ *Cresime*—confirmation
- ▶ *Status animarum*—ecclesiastical census
- ▶ Census records, civil and tax
- ▶ Sicilian *riveli*—a census of the household that lists all children but only the ages of the male children; information regarding male children could be used for tax and military purposes
- ▶ Military records—Italian military records kept track of all males born in a certain year to determine eligibility for military service upon the child turning 18.
- ▶ School records
- ▶ Records of *Ospedale dell'Annunziata* (in Napoli) and other organizations for the care of foundlings and orphans
- ▶ Wills

Ancestry.com has a number of Italian-record databases, as well as databases from throughout Europe. To see what's available for your ancestor's country of birth, visit the Ancestry Card Catalog and select “Europe” in the “Filter by Location” field.



French Childhood

BY CARENE RABILLOUD

IF YOUR FRENCH-BORN ANCESTOR lived before the end of the 19th century, parish registers and birth records may be the only childhood records you'll be able to uncover. These records reflect the high childhood mortality rate in France at a time when fathers rushed to have their newborns baptized before the child died to avoid the sorrow of a child buried without baptism.

France, like Italy, also had a high number of abandoned children. An estimated 400,000 children were abandoned in Paris during the 18th century. Philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau himself abandoned five children he thought could be better cared for by the state; he wrote in 1751, "I gain my bread with enough sorrow, how would I nourish a family?"

To help address the problem, the Foundlings Hospital of Paris was established in 1670, followed by others. The establishment of foundling hospitals also created an invaluable archive of the country's abandoned children. When taken into care—an anonymous process—a child would be recorded in the registers of found children. Today these registers can be consulted at the French archives using the child's name, the day and place of the child's discovery, the child's supposed age, and any other information that may be available.

Unfortunately, without information on parents' names, discovering the family of an "abandoned" ancestor can be very difficult for family historians.

Late 19th Century and Forward

After 1882, school and anti-child-labor laws were passed. Under the direction of Prime Minister Jules Ferry, all children from 6 to 13 years were provided an education. It was at that time that our French ancestors became acutely aware that childhood is an important and special time in life. Old notebooks of school children and sepia photographs, which can be found in family archives and attics, can testify to this revival.

FROM MOTHER TO CHILD: Abandonment notes, like this one found attached to an abandoned child in mid-19th century France, are kept in the registers of found children, accessible through the National Archives of France. The above note is written largely phonetically; the fact that it's written, however, would indicate that the mother had some education.

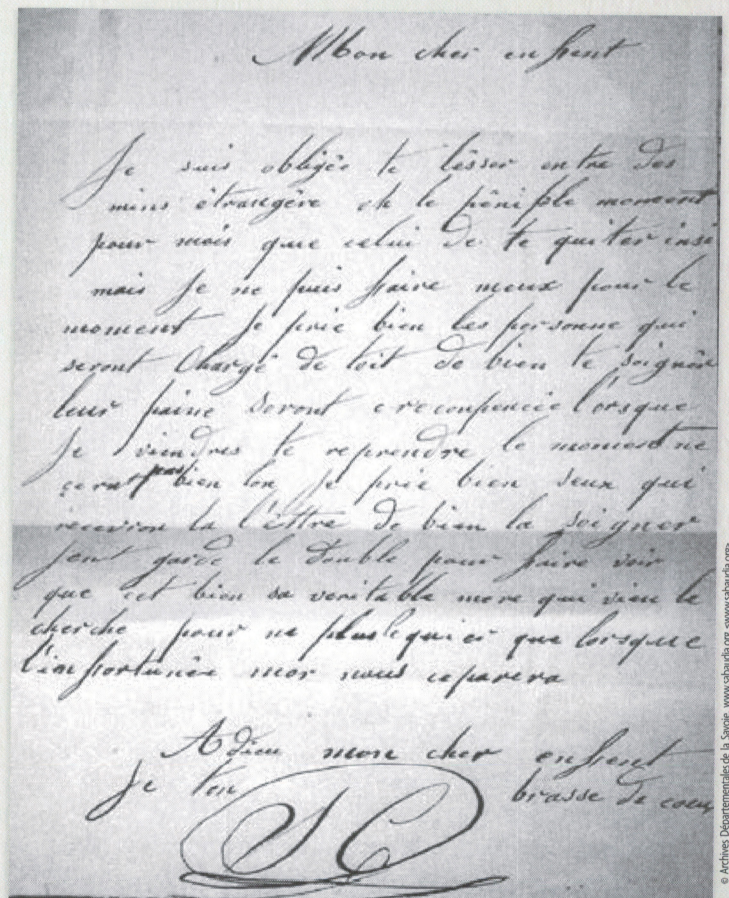
23 August 1849

My dear child,

I have to leave you in foreign hands in this very tough moment of my life, but I can't do it any differently; I pray the people who will be taking care of you to cure you, their pains will be redeemed when I will come back to pick you up, this moment won't be in too long.

I pray the people who find this note to take good care of her. I keep a duplicate to show this is her real mother who will come back to pick her up not to quit her anymore until the misfortune could separate us again.

Goodbye my dear child. I kiss you with my heart.



German Childhoods

BY ANDREA BENTSCHNEIDER

In addition to the obvious records such as church books, census and resident lists, family sheets, house indexes, penitent indexes, or testaments, there are a number of other documents that may have been created that can help you trace the lives of children in Germany.

Adoption and Guardianship Files

Adoption and guardianship cases are generally found among court files. Guardianship files pertain to underage children following the death of the father or mother; by the 20th century these files also dealt with paternity of illegitimate children.

School Records

Between 1763 (Prussia) and 1835 (Saxony), the former German provinces formally established general compulsory school attendance. Many local archives have files on private and public schools; however, most of the schools' records cover only administrative issues. Lists with names and personal data of students are the exception and are more common among collections from institutions of higher education.

As Schleswig and Holstein had close ties to Denmark, it is worth noting that Denmark established schools throughout the land by 1741. In several Danish provinces, schools took censuses in the 1730s and 1740s that listed each student's age, education level, and attendance.

Poor Houses or Orphanages

Entire families could live in poor houses when a father was unable to provide for his family. The records of these institutions often differentiated between admitted adults and children. Children were sometimes sent to local orphanages if no guardian or family member could care for them. These records usually indicate the length of stay as well as adoptions and deaths of children at the orphanage.

In Bavaria—Letter Protocols

Letter protocols are legal documents created by individuals and filed with the Bavarian government. These letters covered everything from weddings, passing a farm to the next generation, settlement of an estate, purchases and exchanges, guardianships, and more. By the 1860s they were partially replaced by the notary public certificates.

Wedding Contracts

These regulated everything that was brought into the marriage—both possessions and children from previous

relationships—as well as what was to become of them in case one of the spouses died. These contracts are a good indication of a family's social standing because they included such things as requirements for children to be raised in the Christian faith and how much money they had for food and clothes.

To find these records, check first with the state archive for the area in which your ancestors lived. Conduct an Internet search for the “state + archives” but note that not all archives will have an English page. You may want to check message boards at Ancestry.com or RootsWeb for assistance with the language and location or join a German American genealogy group for other ideas. Also check local town or community archives and genealogical societies for these and other unique records.

John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt—his name might be your name, too, if he's your grandfather.

Repeating family names was a way of honoring one's heritage and ancestors. Another reason for the repetition of names can stem from rights of primogeniture. A father passing his name on to his first son was an indication of the son's right of inheritance. For a family historian, however, naming patterns may also be a way of discovering more about a previous generation. While patterns of given names varied somewhat from ethnicity to ethnicity and sometimes religion to religion, most of them are based on the following very common Western European naming pattern:

- First son named for father's father
- Second son named for mother's father
- Third son named for father
- Fourth son named for father's eldest brother

The daughters followed suit:

- First daughter named for mother's mother
- Second daughter named for father's mother
- Third daughter named for mother
- Fourth daughter named for mother's eldest sister

There are exceptions. The the third and fourth places might be switched, the first daughter named for the father's mother, parents' names aren't included, or the first son might be named for the maternal grandpa instead. And none of this is set in stone. If a mother is named for her mother, for example, the “third daughter” slot is open for variation. In the event of a child's death, a subsequent sibling may be given the same name. Another deviation might be, in a second marriage, a child being named for a deceased spouse. And an old German tradition included giving a spiritual or saint name as a first name, followed by the name the child would actually be known by.

Search the Internet for “naming patterns” and the ethnicity of the family you're interested in (for example, “naming patterns + Irish”) and you'll be presented with numerous detailed lists; apply them to the names in your own family to see how devoted they were to tradition.



Adoption Hide and Seek

BY DEIDRE DAGNER

SEARCH LONG ENOUGH AND YOU will probably start to discover adopted children in your family tree. People have adopted children since there have been children in need of parents. Fairytales and stories with plots involving an adoption abound because adoptions are a perfect vehicle for drama, mystery, and secrecy.

Mysteries and secrets attract family historians like cats to catnip, but when you encounter that adoption in your family, remember the most important tool in your tool-kit—determination. All successful adoption researchers recommend the persistence of a pit bull. You will need a few other items in your bag of tricks, also.

Where Do You Start?

You will want to talk to relatives first, if possible. They may have information about your ancestor's adoption, such as old family papers or pictures. Check the back of family pictures for notes or names. A copy of the child's birth or baptismal certificate is important, even if it is just an amended copy, because it will include the birth date and place. Even family traditions can be helpful as a starting point.

Birth records can usually be found in the town of birth, filed by date, and many state libraries and historic societies have microfilm copies, which are in alphabetical order. Search through the birth records for the date, and make careful notes of the parents' information for every birth that occurred on the day in question.

Keep in mind that before adoption laws were passed in the 19th century, many adoptions were informal, leaving no reliable documentation. Most American colonies were legally bound to English common law, which did not recognize adoption. When a couple wished to adopt a child, they would petition the court or legislature to change the

child's name instead. Records of name changes were formalized by acts of the legislature or by session laws. To complete the adoption, the parents needed to name the child as an heir in their will, or the child would have no claim to the parents' estate.

The laws pertaining to adoption, enacted in most states in the 1850s, simply codified the unwritten laws in effect at that time. The statute dates of adoption laws and the court having jurisdiction over adoption varies from state to state, so you will need to know the state and approximate year of the adoption. Then look up the court that handled name changes (before 1850) or adoptions (after 1850). A reference book that provides information for the state where the adoption took place is invaluable. There are many helpful publications on specific state adoption procedures written by and for genealogists.

Historic probate, chancery, circuit, and orphans' court records may be at a county courthouse or in state archives. Check the county and state websites, or call, to find out where the records for your time frame are stored. Ask about archive hours and availability of records. Adoption information before 1930 is generally easier to obtain than recent adoption records, which are sealed. Look through court dockets and indexes for cases with the surname and time frame you need. If you find cases that look promising, request the case files by their docket number and name, not by subject.

The Catnip

I found the following entry while searching the 1880 census for information about Joseph R. Burridge:

Joseph is listed with his wife, Olivia H., and his adopted son, George F., age six. When I read a message posted on a genealogy forum asking for information about an adopted

15	Burrige Joseph R.	W M 47				living house
	Olivia H.	W F 43	Wife	1		Farm
	George F.	W M 6	Adopted Son	1		At school
16	Fleet Jacob C.	W M 50		1		Farm

son of Joseph R. Burrridge, I replied to the writer, sending her the information I had, which was not much. She, in turn, sent me the clues she had about this adopted child, who was her great-grandfather. The only place he used the name George F. was the in 1880 census; after that, he was listed as Frank G. He had had a sister, May Hall. There were family pictures labeled "Frank's mother Hall," "grand-mother Thercher," and "grandpa Thayer."

The few photographs provided some birth names to check and I knew the year range of the adoption. Frank was born in 1874, and by the 1880 census, Frank was adopted. I was also alerted to the fact that this might have been a family adoption, since the Thayers are a collateral line in the Burrridge tree.

While checking the procedures listed in *New England Court Records* for an adoption that occurred in Vermont between the years 1874 and 1880, I learned that a notice of adoption must be published in a local newspaper for three consecutive weeks before the hearing. Only a few Vermont newspapers have been digitized, but other states had the same requirement, and their newspaper archives are extensive. (Note: It's actually fun to search through old newspapers, and you will find great information in them.)

My newspaper search did not yield any real clues. I began looking through vital records for the area and came across a burial record for what appears to be Frank's sister, May:

May Matilda (Hall) Flint, February 27, 1878–December 9, 1957, daughter of John and Laura L. (Thayer) Hall

If John and Laura L. (Thayer) Hall were May's parents, they were probably Frank's parents also. I needed more verification, though, so I continued searching. I still needed to tie in the "Thercher" relative. I found another entry for Laura L. (Thayer):

Thresher, Laura L. (Thayer)
May 23, 1854–Oct 12, 1934

"Thresher" is pretty close to "Thercher" and the dates would fit with Frank's birth. Frank's great-granddaughter

believed that Frank's mother was a Thayer who married a Hall; the Hall died after Frank and May's births. The mother then married a "Thercher."

I requested the adoption papers from the county probate court, which handled adoptions during this period. When the papers arrived, I learned Frank's adoption occurred in 1897, when he was age 23. Olivia Burrridge alone adopted Frank and made him her heir barely a month after Joseph Burrridge's death. Frank's birth name was listed as Hall; neither his birthplace nor his birth parents were mentioned.

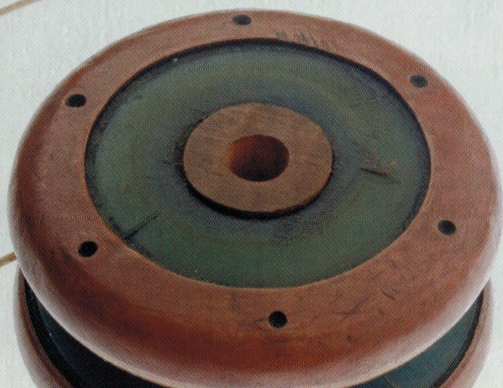
Without a birth town, my next search had to be statewide. I enlisted the help of a cousin in Vermont, who spent two hours searching through the microfilmed vital records for me. She found the birth certificate I needed. I now have proof to support my theory and a great success story. Frank's birth parents were Laura Thayer and John Hall.

DEIDRE BURRIDGE DAGNER, a Yankee transplanted to the Shenandoah Valley, can be reached at deidreanne5@gmail.com.

Statutes Granting Adoption Jurisdiction

State	Court	Year
Connecticut	Probate	1864
Delaware	Orphan's	1890
Georgia	Superior	1855
Hawaii	Circuit	1903
Illinois	County, circuit	1855
Indiana	County, circuit	1867
Kentucky	Circuit, equity, criminal	1860
Maine	Probate	1867
Maryland	Circuit, equity, criminal	1892
Massachusetts	Probate	1851
Missouri	Recorder of Deeds	1853
New Hampshire	Probate	1862
New Jersey	Orphan's	1877
New York	Surrogate	1873
North Carolina	Superior	1872
Ohio	Probate	1859
Oregon	County	1864
Pennsylvania	Common pleas	1855
Rhode Island	Municipal	1872
South Carolina	Common pleas	1882
Tennessee	County, circuit	1852
Texas	-----	1850
Vermont	Probate	1853
Virginia	Chancery	1891
West Virginia	Circuit	1882

From *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*.
Third Edition. Ancestry, 2006.





Placing Out in America

The Orphan Trains

BY MYRA VANDERPOOL GORMLEY, CG

YOUR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH MAY LEAD YOU to an ancestor who was adopted or reared by a foster family in the Midwest, especially in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska, or in Southern states such as Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas. That ancestor might turn out to be one of the more than 150,000 children who were part of a “placing out” program that has become known as the orphan trains.

Clues

One clue that an ancestor might have been one of the orphan train youngsters is if he or she shows up on the census of the foster family, listed as one of the children, but with an Eastern state birthplace that is different from the other children. New York and Massachusetts were the birthplaces of many of these children. The child may or may not have the same surname as the others.

From 1854 to 1929, orphan trains were used to “place out” children, primarily from New York, to homes in farming communities. Some of these children, infants to age 15, were orphans. Some had one parent, while many were homeless street kids or were given up by parents who were unable to provide for them.

Origins

Charles Loring Brace (1826–90) was a pioneering New York social worker who devised a placing out program in 1854 that developed into the largest in the United States. Brace was educated for the clergy and ordained as a Methodist minister. But at the age of 26, he was asked to head up Children’s Aid Society of New York (NYCAS), which became his life ministry.

Brace felt that institutionalizing children stunted and destroyed them. He promoted his plan to place children in homes “out West,” where they would have a chance to grow up in a healthy environment. However, “out West” is a misleading term, since the orphan train children eventually were placed in 47 states.

Brace’s placing out system involved taking groups of waifs, escorted by “agents,” aboard trains to rural America.

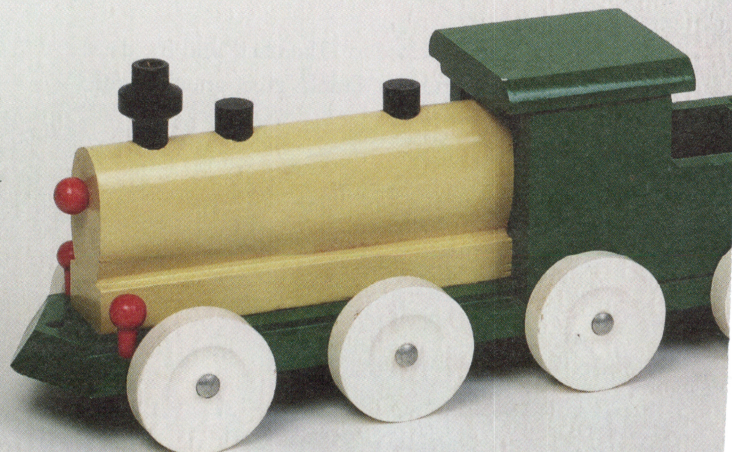
At pre-selected stops, children were inspected by prospective parents and were chosen to live with new families.

After placing a child in a family, the NYCAS agent went back to New York City and made an entry in a register of the name, age, and nationality of the child, where he was obtained, with whom he was placed, and other pertinent information. The agent was supposed to visit or make other contact with the child and family for several years after placement. Some of these records have survived; others have not.

Other Systems

Although non-denominational, the NYCAS was involved primarily with Protestant children and worked with orphan asylums all over the city. Shortly after the NYCAS program started, other institutions, such as the New York Foundling Hospital and the New England Home for Little Wanderers, followed the same general plan, but altered the selection procedure by arranging in advance the foster families to whom the children would go.

The New York Foundling Hospital was opened in 1869 and began boarding children in private homes. In 1873, permanent placement under an indenture system was instituted. Louisiana became home to several thousand babies from the New York Foundling Hospital. By the end of the century, Catholic orphan trains were going as far west as Nebraska and in 1904, at least one group was sent to Arizona Territory.



Life and Formalities

Few of the orphan train children were formally adopted though they may have taken the surname of their foster parents. While some were babies, others were in their teens when sent "out West." The foster home experiences varied greatly. Some orphan train riders were positive about their foster family and felt they were treated well and loved. However, in many instances, the children were taken into a new home only for the work they were expected to do. Some of them were mistreated. In many cases, siblings were separated from each other and subsequently lost contact with the only blood relatives they knew.

Your Turn

For the estimated 2 million descendants of orphan train children, family history research, at least as it pertains to the rider, can be a challenge and records can be scarce, particularly beyond the birth parents.

The children came from varied backgrounds and each child's story is unique. Start with what you know about orphan train ancestors and their stories. Track them backward in all available U.S. censuses. Find out if they used their birth name or their foster parents' surname. Determine if the foster family was Protestant or Catholic. And search in old newspapers of the locality where your ancestors were placed. You may be able to learn details and background material pertaining to their arrival on an orphan train—sometimes there were pictures, too.

Once you have some basic genealogical information, contact the appropriate organizations that may have additional records or information about your ancestors.

MYRA VANDERPOOL GORMLEY, CG, is a regular contributor to *Ancestry magazine*.

Getting More Information Organizations

National Orphan Train Complex

The Orphan Train Heritage Society of America, Inc. (OTHSA) is now part of the National Orphan Train Complex. OTHSA was founded to preserve the history of those who were part of the Orphan Trains.
300 Washington St.
P.O. Box 322
Concordia, KS 66901
Phone: 785-243-4471
E-mail: othsa@msn.com
<www.orphantraindepot.com/index.html>

Children's Aid Society

Office of Closed Records
150 East 45th Street
New York, NY 10017

New York Foundling Hospital

Department of Closed Records
590 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10011

New England Home for Little Wanderers (NEHLW)

Administrative Offices
271 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
Phone: (617) 267-3700
Fax: (617) 267-8142
<www.thehome.org>

Websites and Video

Cyndi's List (Orphans and Orphan Trains)

<www.cyndislist.com/orphans.htm>
<www.cyndislist.com/orphans.htm#Orphans>

Iowa Orphan Train Stops

<www.maquoketa.k12.ia.us/OT_IA_Stops.html>

Nebraska State Historical Society

<www.nebraskahistory.org/sites/mnh/orphans>

New York Juvenile Asylum, 1880 Census Transcriptions

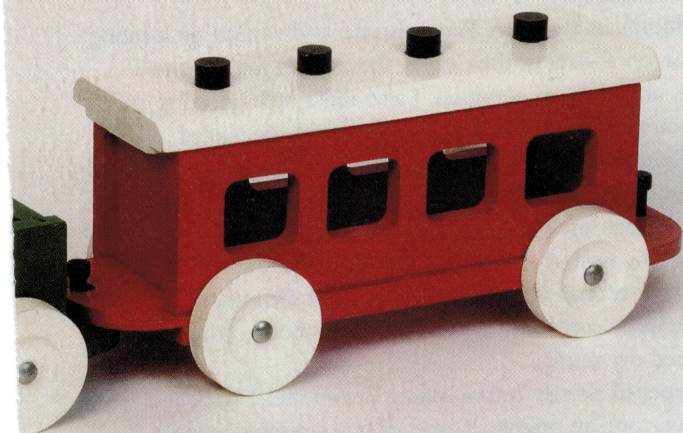
(Many children from this institution were sent to Illinois and other states on orphan trains.) Transcribed by Verna Drake for the Illinois State Genealogical Society.
<www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilsgs/1880ny84.html>
<www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilsgs/1880189.html>

Orphan Trains of Kansas, compiled by Connie DiPasquale

<www.kancoll.org/articles/orphans>

PBS: The American Experience/The Orphan Trains

<www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/orphan>



Found! Unclaimed Persons

What do family historians and coroners have in common? They're teaming up to help find the families of unclaimed persons from all over the country. Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak tells you how.

BY MEGAN SMOLENYAK SMOLENYAK



I USUALLY WRITE ABOUT orphan heirlooms, but this time I thought I'd introduce a concept that's both related and radically different: unclaimed persons. Orphan heirlooms and unclaimed persons are similar in that they both involve locating the living, but beyond that, they're worlds apart.

What's an Unclaimed Person?

Unclaimed persons are people who go to their graves with no family to claim them. They aren't John and Jane Does; unclaimed persons are individuals whose identities are known, but whose next of kin aren't. And because our society has become so mobile, so busy, and so fragmented, the number of unclaimed persons is escalating.

I learned about the phenomenon when I tripped across a newspaper article that mentioned the struggles of coroners' offices trying to cope with this issue. Several examples were offered, including one from Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, in which the family Bible of an unclaimed person was in the possession of the coroner. That sparked a light-bulb moment.

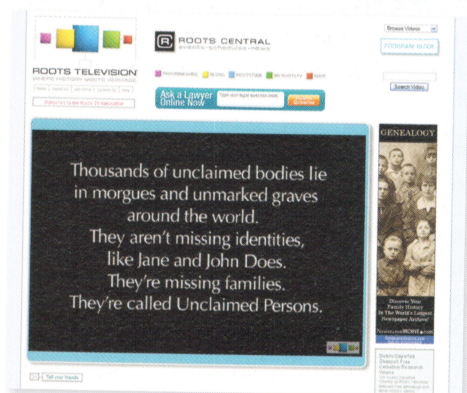
In the course of writing *Found*, I've rescued a number of family Bibles, so I thought I could use the same genealogical detective skills to locate the family of this man. I called and offered my services, explaining that I was a professional genealogist and detailing my experience with this kind of research. They invited me to visit.

Evolution of Unclaimed

I met with officials in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and wound up locating the next of kin on several of their cases, though not for the one that originally attracted my attention. I also did a little googling and came across <www.unclaimedpersons.com>, a website hosted by San Bernardino County, California. I was startled to find a database of several thousand unclaimed people, who had died in California.

I browsed through the website, plucked about half a dozen cases, and located the next of kin. The research was very similar to the sleuthing I do for orphan heirlooms, the primary difference being that the cases were fairly contemporary. I called the office in San Bernardino and shared my results.

This all happened shortly before Marcy Brown and I launched RootsTelevision.com, an online channel of free genealogy videos. As soon as I explained the situation to Marcy, she and I agreed that we



AS IT HAPPENS. You can learn more about how the group has helped find family members of unidentified persons by watching the videos at RootsTelevision.com.

could produce a show to bring attention to this serious, but addressable, problem.

It took a while. We needed to approach coroner's offices, solve more cases, coordinate schedules, and film and edit a couple of episodes. Since my personal experience had started with Lackawanna and San Bernardino counties, we featured them in the premiere episode.

Unclaimed Persons, the Show

At the end of May 2008, we uploaded the first episode, which you can watch at RootsTelevision.com (search for "unclaimed" in the "Search Video" field). Two cases are featured. The first, the Finch case, was the Lackawanna County one that sparked my interest. Although I didn't solve it at the time, we did manage to return the family Bible that had been among Finch's possessions (it belonged to another family). Finch's case was solved shortly after.

The other case is about a man named Higgs who died in a jeep in the desert. The most compelling part may be an interview with Higgs's brother, who received the call from the coroner. Listening to the brother brings Higgs back to life, in a sense, and helps you understand how a body can go unclaimed. A supplementary video explains the research involved in this case.

When we put this first show online, we knew there would be interest, especially within the genealogical community. Still, we weren't prepared for what happened.

RootsTelevision.com was inundated with e-mails from family historians who wanted to offer their research talents to the cause. Since RootsTelevision.com is a two-person company, our resources were already stretched. We brainstormed ways to harness this spirit of volunteerism as quickly as possible. A website made sense, but that would take time. We needed something fast.

Unclaimed Persons, the Facebook Community

Earlier in the year, I had registered on Facebook and swiftly found myself addicted. In addition to personal profiles, Facebook offered a group option that could be set up almost instantly. It might not be perfect and offer all the functionality we desired, but it would be a quick solution to creating a gathering place for people who had contacted us individually.

We launched Unclaimed Persons on Facebook, blogged about it, and told some other people, asking them to blog as well. Our numbers started growing. First there were just a few of us, then we jumped to triple digits, and before we knew it, there were more than 400 volunteers.

We needed a system. The RootsTelevision.com show had left San Bernardino's www.unclaimedpersons.com data-

base overwhelmed, the coroner's office struggling to keep pace, and some cases being solved multiple times.

Fortunately, the show had also attracted calls from other coroner's offices around the country, so we had a list of cases that weren't anywhere online. Before long, a structure began emerging: volunteer case managers and administrators oversaw individual cases. Folks like Dee Welborn and Terry Elliott devoted their efforts almost full-time. With some trial and error, we eventually developed a process for posting, tracking, solving, and submitting new cases. It still needs tweaking, but it's getting better all the time.

And we quietly continued to court additional coroner's

Unclaimed persons are individuals whose identities are known but whose next of kin aren't. The number is escalating.

offices, assuring each that volunteers wouldn't make contact with family and educating them about how genealogists can sometimes find relatives who haven't been found through other means.

Unclaimed Persons, the Website

We still needed an easy-to-find, permanent, and public location online. Enter www.unclaimedpersons.org.

The website includes videos, guidelines for potential volunteers, a case submission form for medical examiners, feedback from coroners we've worked with, our solved-cases count, and more. If you're interested in participating, watch a few videos to get a feel for the work involved; click on a Facebook icon to join the group. Then jump in or monitor discussions until you're ready to contribute.

What's Next for Unclaimed Persons?

Unclaimed Persons has taken on a life of its own. If you'd told me six months ago that there would be a volunteer force more than 400 strong working with coroners across the country, I would have said you were dreaming. So it's hard to fathom where we might be in another six months. The one thing I do know is that this partnership of coroners and genealogists is providing a valuable service that's very meaningful to the families involved. As our website says, every life is worth remembering.

MEGAN SMOLENYAK SMOLENYAK, co-founder of *RootsTelevision* and the *Unclaimed Persons* initiative, welcomes orphan heirloom submissions at www.honoringourancestors.com.



 **ancestry.com** | DNA
dna.ancestry.com

Break through dead ends • Discover ancient ancestry • Connect with genetic cousins • Join surname groups



now

Ever Wonder?

SURE YOU'VE FOUND SOME GERMAN ancestors, but what are the odds you have a German family crest, too? Now you can find out through *Siebmacher's Wappenbuch*, available online at Ancestry.com.

Siebmacher's Wappenbuch, considered the definitive work in German heraldry, is a series of 100 volumes featuring family details dating back to the 12th century. Crests are included for nobility and upper-middle-class families from Germany, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and other parts of Europe. Entries offer more than just a pretty picture—some include biographical information, pedigree charts, and other details as well.

Access this treasure through the Ancestry Card Catalog (search "Siebmacher"). Then dust off your German-English dictionary or your favorite translator since the entire work is written in German. And proceed with caution. While you might find a family that sounds like yours, you'll need to verify details via your own family history savvy. But that's part of the fun, right?

Where's the Fire?

BY COLLEEN FITZPATRICK, PH.D.

WE LIVE IN AN AMAZING WORLD, where we can access so much information at the touch of a mouse. Every day, new databases appear online, new historical organizations post websites, and new items that can help identify an old photo show up on eBay. The Internet can turn anyone into an online expert.

But being an online expert is sometimes not enough. And there are plenty of times when it's easier to solve a photo mystery the old-fashioned way—by contacting an expert offline.

That's how we solved the mystery of Emily Aulicino's fire wagon photo. As the family historian, Emily inherited the picture of Kansas City fire wagon No. 20 when her grandfather died. Then she asked for help.

I researched the Kansas City Fire Department online before posting the picture as a weekly photoquiz on <www.forensicgenealogy.info>. Unfortunately, I couldn't find much useful information, except that the department retired its last horses in favor of fire trucks on 20 September 1927.

We learned much more when we contacted Ray Elder, historian at the Kansas City Fire Museum. He told us the following:

Fire Station No. 20 was opened August 19, 1902, at 2701 Guinotte Ave., in the East Bottoms of Kansas City. Most of the time when a new company was put in service, the members would pay a photographer to take their picture...in their dress uniforms. I believe the photo was taken just after the station was opened in August of 1902. The photo was taken across the street [from] Station 20. The building in the background is still standing and so is Fire Station No. 20. Michael H. Burns was the first captain of Station 20. He is the man who is sitting next to the driver.

Ray Elder also named all of the men who had ever served at Firehouse No. 20. Unfortunately, none of them belonged to Emily's family. But we learned the exact location, approximate date, the name of one of the subjects, and a list of other men who could be in the photo. Plus, thanks to Emily, the Kansas City Fire Museum now has the only known photo of Station No. 20's opening day.



Heirloom Shadow Boxes

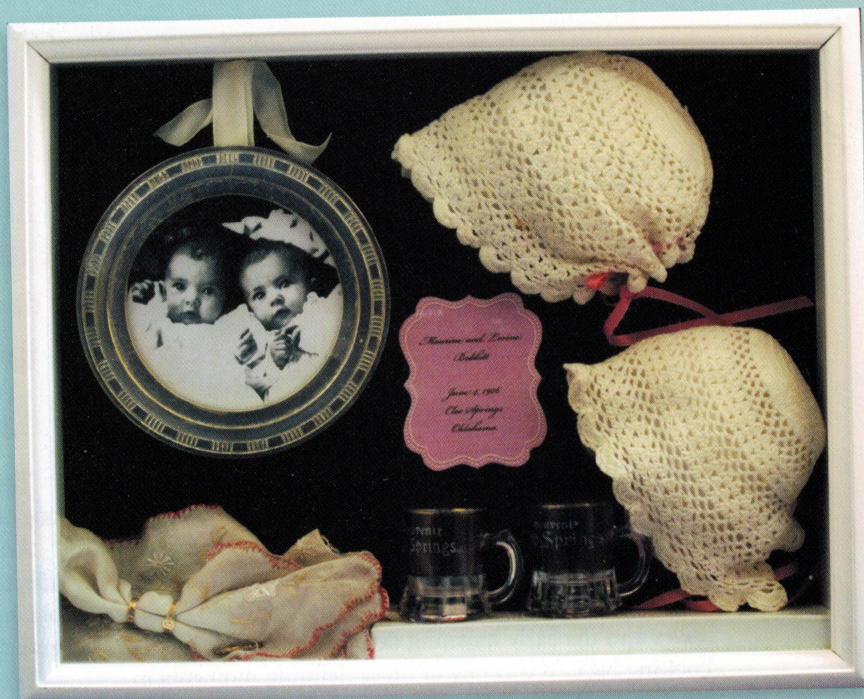
DUST OFF THE BABY BOOTIES that have been sitting in the attic for years. Gather your grandfather's WWII medals and your parents' love letters and give them a place of honor where they can be seen—and enjoyed—in a shadow box.

Supplies

- A pre-made shadow box or display case (available at most craft or home improvement stores).
- Family mementos: photos, clothing, medals, letters, old maps, jewelry, records, dried flowers—just about anything works.
- Adhesives. Avoid using adhesives on your irreplaceable heirlooms. If you do need to use glues or mounting tapes, make sure they are archival-quality and acid free.

How-to

- 1 Experiment. Lay out objects in a variety of ways until you find an arrangement you like.
- 2 Create a background. Most boxes are already lined, but you can customize yours with fabric, paper, or paint.
- 3 Place your arrangement in the box. Add items in layers, working from front to back. When they're all in place, affix them in the box.
- 4 Take a final look. Before you close the box, make sure all items are firmly in place and that you're happy with the final product. Then close the box up and enjoy.



PLAN IT OUT:

Arranging your objects before placing them in your box can save you time and helps you see whether you need to add more decorative elements.



STRONG BUT SENSITIVE:

The ribbon holding the frame is attached to the top of the shadow box with a push pin and the glasses are fastened to their stand with archival mounting tape.



Making the Move

What went through the minds of our family members when their own children left the nest? Sometimes you just have to stand in the shoes of those ancestors to truly appreciate what they felt.

BY MYRA VANDERPOOL GORMLEY, CG

I RAN BACK AND FORTH between the house and car, helping Mother with my twin brothers and lugging stuff to the old Plymouth for our move to Kansas. It was a crisp October morning in Oklahoma—one of those days where the sun filters softly onto the gold and red of the leaves and the early morning dew sparkles on the grass. Looking back, it was one of those defining moments in our family history. After that move, our family would never be the same.

Like countless families before and since, it was a better job for my dad that prompted us to move more than 500 miles away from kith and kin to start a new life. The quest for better economic opportunity is probably the most common impetus behind family migrations. Sometimes these were moves of a few hundred miles, other times thousands. Entire families might make the journey or sometimes just one child. They'd cross landmasses by wagon, barge, train, or automobile. Or they'd cross an ocean.

Thinking ancestors didn't move much in "those days" is one of the first fallacies family historians must address.

Adults made the decisions to move, but these moves affected the children as well, especially if they were old enough to feel the pain of being uprooted from grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

I've fondly dubbed one of my ancestors "Roaming William." Born in North Carolina in 1808, he died in the Cherokee Nation in 1884 after having moved to Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, back to Kentucky, Missouri, Iowa, back to Missouri, Kansas, back to Missouri, Arkansas, and finally into Indian Territory. No wonder his 20 children (by two wives) were so rootless.

Images of my ancestors departing from the Netherlands, France, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, and Germany make me wonder what they felt as they kissed and hugged their sons and daughters goodbye. Did my ancestors Gerrit and Tryntje openly cry when their son took their infant grandson and sailed away to New Netherland in 1644?

I think they did. Just as my grandmother did on that October morning in 1952, though she tried valiantly to hold back tears as she kissed the twins goodbye and pressed a \$5 bill in my hand, hugging me tightly. Had her grandmother cried when her daddy loaded their family into a wagon and headed into Indian Territory 58 years earlier, when she was my age?

I've always remembered that day, but until I hugged and kissed my own family goodbye recently as they headed to California, I didn't fully understand my grandmother's angst. And her grandmother's. And their wandering ancestors' before them. Now I do.

MYRA VANDERPOOL GORMLEY spends her days untangling her illustrious roots and pruning her family's notorious branches—the latter being a seemingly full-time job. Reach her at myravg@wamail.net.



Who Is Anna?

BY PAULA STUART-WARREN, CG

WHILE SEARCHING FOR FAMILY SURNAMES in the 1900 census at Ancestry.com, you discover a mystery. Anna Lenker, age 13, is in the Evangelical German Lutheran Children's Home in Indianapolis. Why is she there? And does she fit with your Lenkers?

1.

Children in orphanages may have been orphans, abandoned, or placed by court order. Check county guardianship records for a legal proceeding about Anna.

2.

Orphanage records, if they still exist, may have details on Anna's family. Check city and county histories to see if the institution is mentioned and watch for any name changes.

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

State Indiana Supervisor's District No. 7 Sheet No. 10
County Marion Enumeration District No. 118
Township or other division of county Center Township Name of Institution Evangelical German Lutheran Orphan Home
Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division City of Indianapolis Lines 25 to 77 inclusive Ward of city 8
Enumerated by me on the 7th day of June, 1900, Henry B. Ross, Enumerator.

LOCATION			NAME of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Exclude every person living on June 1, 1900, other than the head and wife of the head of the family.	RELATION. Relationship of each person to the head of the family.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION				SATIVITY			CITIZENSHIP. Naturalized citizen of the United States. Foreign born. Naturalized citizen of the United States. Foreign born.	OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION. Of each person TEN YEARS of age and over.	EDUCATION.			ORIGIN OF BIRTH.		
IN CITY.	IN TOWN.	IN VILLAGE.			DATE OF BIRTH. Month. Year.	AGE. Years.	SEX.	PLACE OF BIRTH OF THIS PERSON.	PLACE OF BIRTH OF FATHER OF THIS PERSON.	PLACE OF BIRTH OF MOTHER OF THIS PERSON.	EDUCATION. Years of school attended. Years of college or university attended.			EDUCATION. Years of school attended. Years of college or university attended.	EDUCATION. Years of school attended. Years of college or university attended.				
			Lowerre, Frank	Inmate	WM	Jul 1893	6												
			Bismann	Inmate	WM	Mar 1897	3												
			Blasius, Otto	Inmate	WM	Jul 1895	5												
			Krugmann, Paul	Inmate	WM	May 1893	7												
			Kaiser, Minnie	Inmate	W F	Aug 1883	16												
			Runk, Augusta	Inmate	W F	May 1875	25												
			Wolf, Emma	Inmate	W F	Mar 1885	15												
			Lenker, Anna	Inmate	W F	Apr 1887	13												
			Ross, Henry	Inmate	W F	Mar 1881	19												
			Rugel, Bertha	Inmate	W F	Jul 1884	16												
			Roscher, Clara	Inmate	W F	Feb 1883	17												
			Roscher, Clara	Inmate	W F	Mar 1883	17												
			Pope, Fidel	Inmate	W F	Mar 1881	19												
			Hoffmann, Ida	Inmate	W F	Mar 1888	11												
			Witt, Clara	Inmate	W F	Mar 1881	19												
			Meyer, Frieda	Inmate	W F	Apr 1886	14												
			Rosa	Inmate	W F	Dec 1890	9												
			Hoffmann, Anna	Inmate	W F	Sept 1893	6												
			Fuchs, Bertha	Inmate	W F	Nov 1886	13												
			Anderson, Anna	Inmate	W F	Feb 1888	11												
			Keller, Bertha	Inmate	W F	Nov 1887	12												
			Olson	Inmate	W F	Feb 1891	9												
			Pach, Alma	Inmate	W F	Jul 1893	6												
			Wassermann, Minnie	Inmate	W F	Mar 1890	10												
			Bernhardt, Emma	Inmate	W F	Nov 1890	9												
			Olson	Inmate	W F	Feb 1894	4												

3.

Check the front or back of city directories for possible children's homes and orphanages. Follow address listings through the years to see if the one you are looking for still exists, though perhaps under another name and purpose. Might the records be there?

4.

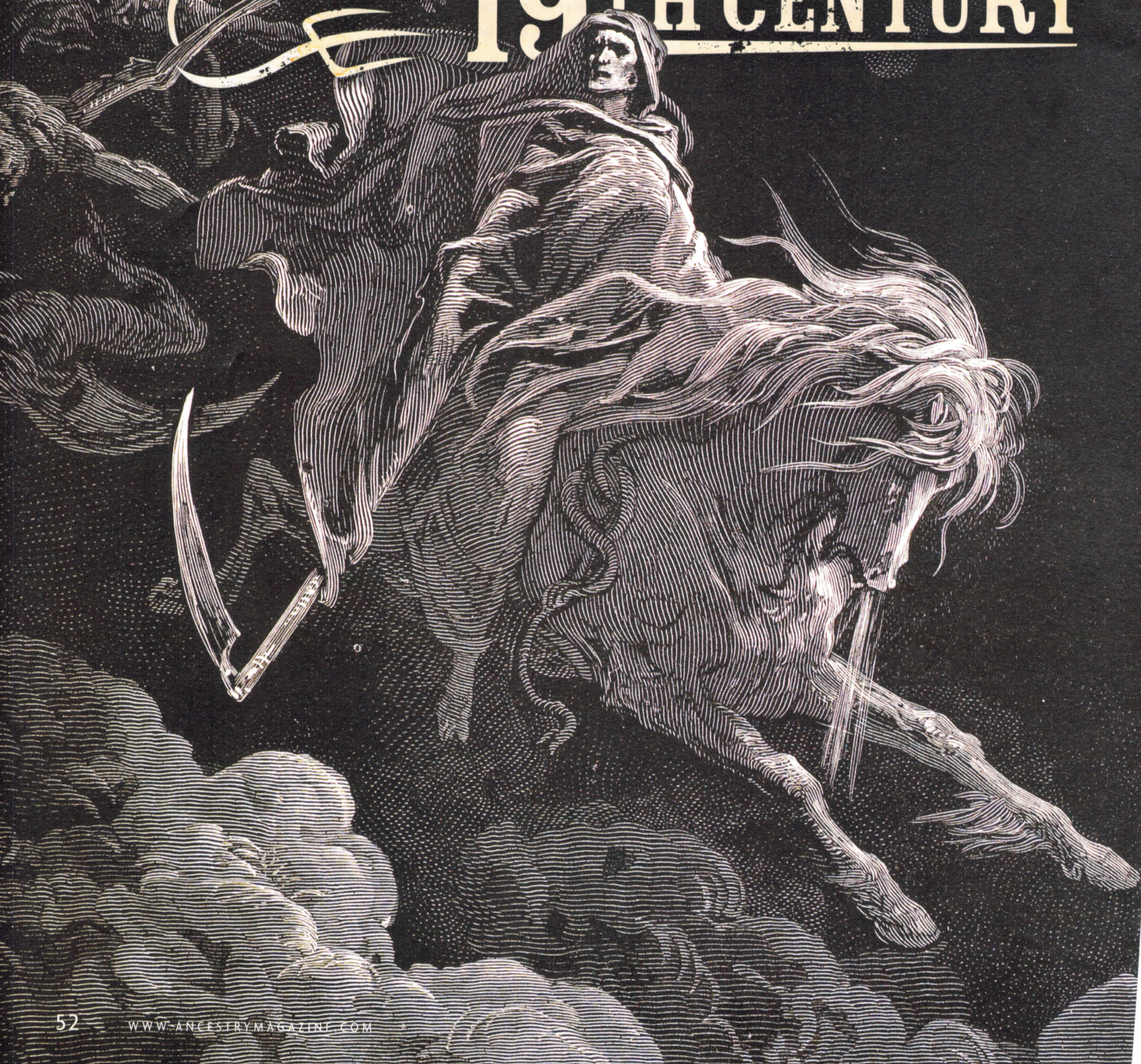
If the orphanage is a religious institution, search for archives of that denomination in the same state or on a national level.

5.

Check local and state repositories for records. In this case, there may be records at the Indiana Historical Society covering 1867-1974. The city directories and address will confirm name changes. Next step? Plan a visit to the IHS. Take a German-English dictionary.

Scourges

OF THE 19TH CENTURY



*Oh, mothers, be careful and cautious
What milk for your children you buy,
Be careful 'tis not the swill poison,
That's sold in some carts that drive by.*

—“Swill Milk #2,” by G. W. Anderson (1855)



BY JENNIE KAUFMAN

IT WAS 1869. Irish immigrants Joseph and Bridget Moore and their three daughters (Mary, 4; Jane, 3; and baby Agnes) took an apartment at 97 Orchard Street, New York.

They were moving up, says David Favaloro, research director of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, getting out of the notorious Five Points district and into a six-year-old building with an actual sewer line from the outhouses in the privy yard.

Touring the museum's re-creation of the Moores' 325-square-foot apartment, you see a small bedroom, crammed with bedding and luggage, and a kitchen with a big coal stove and a washbasin. Finally, you enter the neatly furnished front room, set up for a funeral vigil with a tiny coffin. Baby Agnes died when she was five months old.

The cause of death was marasmus, a form of malnutrition. It's likely that her illness was caused or worsened by contaminated milk.

Dairy Problems

Bad milk wasn't an uncommon occurrence. “Swill milk,” which came from cows fed distillery waste, or swill, was widely distributed in urban areas. And swill milk and the process that created it was neither healthy nor safe for cow or baby.

Cows fed swill were undernourished and sick: they lost their teeth, they were covered in sores, their tails rotted off. The milk they produced was bluish and thin; distributors would add everything from flour to chalk to make it appear white.

Swill milk wasn't the only problem. Milk—whether it started out good or bad—was subject to human handling. Conditions were anything but sanitary. Containers used for transport and delivery were often reused by customers and milkmen without cleaning. The product itself was carted through filthy city streets, often uncovered. Milk was often watered down, providing inadequate nutrition. And, in the days before pasteurization became mandatory, bovine tuberculosis could be passed to humans through milk.

To make matters worse, many poor urban women didn't breast-feed their children. Their belief? That cow's milk was better for the child.

Infant Mortality

Infant mortality was frighteningly high in the latter half of the 19th century. In New York City, 20 percent of children never reached their first birthday. Nationwide, in 1900, 18 percent of children died before age five. They died of pneumonia, gastroenteritis, diphtheria, and malnutrition.

Treatments were more hopeful than specific. According to Favaloro, “Disease isn't disease, a doctor isn't a doctor, a hospital isn't a hospital as we understand it today.”

Modern medicines hadn't been developed yet, and most diseases weren't understood. Because physicians paid house calls to the wealthy, hospitals carried the stigma of poverty and were mainly a place the sick went to die, Favaloro continues.

People relied on patent medicines. These included



“soothing syrups” containing morphine, heroin, opium, or laudanum; they were effective in making babies stop crying, but they were addictive. And they failed to address the cause of the problem.

As for the Moores, they had eight daughters in all. Only four reached adulthood. Bridget herself died at 36, apparently of a heart ailment.

“Death rides a cootie.”

Doctor Joseph Lyon of the University of Utah’s School of Family and Preventative Medicine warns his epidemiology students that “when estimates of mortality include lots of zeroes, we’re guessing.”

But when it comes to how our ancestors died on a large scale, it’s actually the little things—microscopic organisms—that have made the difference. The smallpox virus, for example, killed more people in the 20th century than all of that century’s wars combined, and the bacteria behind epidemic typhus has been more effective at decimating armies than the cavalry charge.

From the black death to yellow fever, here are some of history’s most ruthless killers:

What: Smallpox

When: first recorded epidemic 1350 B.C.

Body count: 300+ million in 20th century

Where: worldwide

Modus operandi: viral infection

In terms of killers, Dr. Lyon agrees that “smallpox probably ranks about number one.” Smallpox was among the diseases that decimated native populations in the New World, but it also has the distinction of being the first—and to date only—disease to be eradicated by human beings (as of 1979) after an intensive vaccination program.



What: Plague

When: 1347–51

Body count: 25+ million

Where: Europe

Modus operandi: viral infection

The most famous epidemic in Western culture is the Black Death, which wiped out some 25 million western Europeans between 1347 and 1351. The plague, caused by a viral infection transmitted via fleas, followed trade routes out of China, through the Middle East, and up into Russia, and estimates range from 75 to 200 million victims worldwide in the 14th century.

What: Typhus

When: 1489

Body count: 18,000

Where: Granada

Modus operandi: bacterial infection (via body lice feces)

Typhus, which in one month decimated a Spanish army laying siege to the Moors in Granada in 1489, has changed the course of wars and the tides of history. Spread by body lice, typhus thrives in close quarters and unsanitary conditions: jails, ships, urban slums, and army camps—including Napoleon’s Grand Armée, which typhus helped drive from Moscow. Tens of thousands died from typhus during Ireland’s Great Famine, while thousands more perished from “ship fever” crossing the Atlantic. Russia saw 3 million die of epidemic typhus from 1917–23 in the midst of the Socialist Revolution.

What: Yellow fever

When: August–October 1793

Body count: 5,000

Where: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Modus operandi: viral infection (via mosquito)

In three months, almost one-tenth of the population of Philadelphia and its suburbs

Epidemics

In the crowded tenements in U.S. cities, poor sanitation helped disease thrive. The late 19th century saw epidemics of typhoid, typhus, smallpox, influenza, and bubonic plague, among others. A lack of understanding of the cause and means of prevention helped two epidemics—cholera

died of a fever the city’s physicians were powerless to treat. The 1853 yellow fever outbreak in New Orleans killed more than 8,000; an 1878 epidemic left more than 5,000 dead in Memphis and bankrupted the city. An 1800–03 epidemic in Spain took 60,000 lives.

What: Cholera

When: 7 pandemics between 1817 and 1970

Body count: 25+ million

Where: from India to the world

Modus operandi: bacterial infection (transmitted via water systems)

Cholera started in India, and the last two centuries have witnessed 7 pandemics. Cholera can kill in hours, with a mortality rate of up to 50% even among its healthiest victims. The 1832 pandemic in New York City left 3,500 of the city’s 250,000 residents dead. In Paris, 18,000–20,000 perished in a matter of months.

What: Influenza

When: 1918–19

Body count: 20–50 million

Where: worldwide pandemic

Modus operandi: viral infection

This flu gets the top spot for sheer efficiency. Dr. Lyon points out that this outbreak demonstrated the classic qualities of an epidemic: “It was not there previously. It hit, killed a lot of people, and then disappeared over time.” Scientists still don’t know exactly what made this virus so deadly. Other flu pandemics occurred in 1957 (Asian flu) and 1968 (Hong Kong flu).



and yellow fever—become particularly difficult and persistent.

Cholera

Cholera reached the United States in the 1830s, as steamship travel and immigration increased. Public sentiment on the diseases, wrote historian Charles Rosenberg in *The Cholera Years: The United States in 1832, 1849, and 1866*, was that cholera “was a scourge not of mankind but of the sinner” and that the disease would target people who engaged in what was considered morally reprehensible activity. “Most Americans did not doubt that cholera was a divine imposition,” said Rosenberg.

However, cholera is a bacterial disease usually spread through contaminated water. Its progress is fast and horrifying: victims experience sudden and severe diarrhea and vomiting resulting in drastic dehydration. The skin turns blue and facial features become gaunt. In early epidemics, half of those stricken died, often within hours.

Yellow Fever

Yellow fever, a mosquito-borne virus, came to the United States on ships from the Caribbean. The disease, which can cause jaundice, hemorrhaging, heart arrhythmias, and liver and kidney failure, killed more than 8,000 in New Orleans in 1853, although numerous other cities in America and elsewhere also reported outbreaks.

In 1878, despite a federal quarantine act, yellow fever spread up the Mississippi River, killing 20,000 people. Half the population of Memphis fled; the epidemic cost the city \$15 million, leaving it bankrupt.

Public Response and Trial and Error

Officials could do little more than call for quarantines, but those could easily backfire. During Norfolk, Virginia’s 1855 yellow fever epidemic, other towns tried to keep residents of Norfolk from entering their towns. But, wrote Norfolk pastor George D. Armstrong at the time, “The prospect of being trapped with the disease sent many people fleeing the town in panic.”

And because quarantines took such a severe toll on a city’s economic well-being, there was an incentive to hide disease. When bubonic plague struck San Francisco in March 1900, residents of the affected Chinatown area denied it for years, as did business leaders and California’s governor. More than 100 people died before the next governor took steps to bring it under control.

Orphanages arose in the wake of epidemics, although most parentless children found homes with relatives or



TREATMENT AS THEY ARRIVE. Immigrants deemed too unhealthy to leave Ellis Island were sent to the immigration center’s hospital.

friends. But children also lost their mothers when fatal germs were spread in maternity wards, or “lying-in hospitals.”

Deaths in childbirth often came after childbirth, usually resulting from postpartum infections leading to sepsis, or blood poisoning. When Oliver Wendell Holmes suggested in 1843 that puerperal fever was being spread from patient to patient in maternity wards by doctors who failed to disinfect their hands and clothes, his theory kindled resentment. Dr. Charles Meigs of Philadelphia dismissed this “contagion of which I cannot form any clear idea.” Doctors were gentlemen, he said, and gentlemen’s hands were clean.

Discoveries

Germ theory made all the difference to addressing public health crises, but acceptance took time.

In 1882, the German scientist Robert Koch identified the microbe that caused tuberculosis, the leading cause of death in New York City that year. In 1889, Dr. Hermann Biggs of New York, convinced by Koch’s work that



tuberculosis was preventable, wrote a report for the Health Department in which he advised measures including disinfection, disposal of sputum, reporting of all pulmonary cases, and educating the public. The report met with resistance.

In 1892, the threat of cholera returned. It had been raging from Persia and Russia westward; on 30 August 1892, the ship *Moravia* arrived in New York after a voyage during which 22 passengers died.

This time, the state health department sprang into action, creating a division of pathology, bacteriology, and disinfection and imposing a quarantine. Under Dr. Biggs' direction, staff examined patients' feces to confirm diagnosis, then sent crews to scrub and treat patients' surroundings. They cleaned public areas, disinfected water pipes, and launched a public information campaign on prevention and treatment.

The result? "Only nine people died," report Edwin G. Burrows and Mike Wallace in their book *Gotham*. "The epidemic—which had killed 2,500 a day in Russia for weeks at a time—had been completely defeated."

Turn of the Century

The victory over cholera spurred municipal involvement in preventive medicine. Dr. Biggs established a system of mass diagnosis from cultures. Diagnosing diphtheria, for instance, revealed that nearly half of presumed cases weren't diphtheria at all.

Still, progress was slow. Realizing the importance of clean water and proper sewage disposal was one thing;

instituting them was another. And then there was the milk. Pasteurization was invented in 1864, but it was 1908 before Chicago passed the country's first law requiring it.

And an epidemic worse than any the nation had seen was still to come.

The Flu

In September 1918, influenza invaded a military camp in Boston, then spread from east to west across the nation, infecting more than a quarter of all Americans. By destroying protective cells in victims' bronchial tubes, the virus paved the way for bacterial pneumonia, causing thousands of deaths in every major city, especially among young adults. Some people died within hours of their first symptoms.

The pandemic took 12 years off the average U.S. life expectancy. Worldwide, it killed an estimated 20 to 50 million people, more than died in World War I.

At the time, however, it did not inspire fear in proportion to its effects. This may have been because the pandemic came at the time World War I was ending; officials in some cities initially downplayed the threat to forestall panic, even as other cities quickly closed schools and theaters and mandated face masks.

Another reason may be that the affliction was simply less grotesque than others. As J. N. Hays writes in his book *Epidemics and Pandemics*: "Deaths from influenza-related pneumonia were painful enough, but left no victims suddenly and shamefully collapsed in the street in their own excrement, as cholera had done."

Ellis Island Hospital

The Statue of Liberty famously greeted the shiploads of immigrants who arrived a hundred years ago. But before they could taste that liberty, steerage passengers had to face the health inspection at Ellis Island.

The exam, says documentarian Lorie Conway, began at the bottom of a set of stairs; at the top were doctors with stethoscopes, alert to those who were short of breath after climbing. While these rapid exams provoked criticism, as Conway points out, after seeing thousands of people a day, the doctors "became pretty good diagnosticians." They were checking mainly for communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis or trachoma, which could wreak havoc.

About one in five immigrants failed this screening exam and received a second look in private. Most of them were cleared. But there were still plenty who failed.

Of those who failed the follow-up, approximately 1 percent were deported for medical reasons. The rest entered the Ellis Island hospital complex. Some of these patients' stories are told in Conway's documentary *Forgotten Ellis Island*, scheduled to air on PBS on 2 February.

Hospitalization could be a traumatic experience. There weren't enough translators to cover every dialect, and some patients and families didn't understand what was happening. The average hospital stay was two weeks,

at a cost of \$2 a day; some lasted longer. Immigrant aid societies stepped in to help the immigrants who couldn't pay the fee.

Conway calls the system "a safety net with holes," especially in regard to tests of mental fitness (the label "feeble-minded" was often hastily applied). And about 3,500 sick patients died.

But 350 babies were born on Ellis Island, and at a time of massive immigration, the hospital did its job. Overall, Conway believes, "The hospital was a place of hope and healing."

For more information on *Forgotten Ellis Island*, visit www.forgottenellisland.com.

—Jennie Kaufman

But by the time the flu had run its course, as many as 675,000 Americans had died.

Better Days

Eventually, however, the epidemics and pandemics and public health conditions that wrecked havoc on previous generations have resulted in improved health today.

For example, cholera and typhoid were both eventually found to be waterborne diseases; neither is a problem today in the United States thanks to various disinfectants in the nation's public water supplies. Methods of processing, packaging, and delivering milk, as well as mandatory pasteurization of commercially sold milk, has dramatically increased the safety of the product. And a greater understanding of the causes of specific diseases and how they're spread has resulted in vaccinations and other preventive measures to keep them at bay.

Late last year, scientists studying the immune systems of survivors who were exposed to the 1918 flu pandemic discovered that 90 years later, the survivors are still producing antibodies to that specific strain of influenza, although the strain has mutated sufficiently to no longer be considered a threat.

Back at the tenement museum, visitors can view the difference a handful of decades made. The apartment next door to the Moore's was occupied by the Russian-Jewish Katz family in the 1930s. Their daughter drank pasteurized milk, and the museum has a chart showing the hygiene checks administered in schools. Times were better outside, too. The infant mortality rate had dropped below 7 percent, largely thanks to improved sanitation.

JENNIE KAUFMAN is a New York-based writer. Her blog <www.movingsidewalkblog.com> explores the immigrant landscape of New York, then and now.



Photo courtesy of Boston Film and Video Productions

Croup—3 days. Found dead. Cholera—5 minutes.

There is something both intimate and raw about the information found in census mortality schedules.

Mortality schedules were included in the federal census from 1850–1900 to record information about deaths that had occurred in the year prior to the census enumeration (typically June 1–May 31). The schedules for 1890 and 1900 were destroyed, and surviving schedules are a bit scattered, but they can be worth tracking down.

Mortality schedules include not only names of people who would not otherwise appear on the census but also age, sex, color, whether widowed, place of birth, occupation, and month and cause of death. Later schedules also included questions about the parents' place of birth, and some asked about length of illness or other details.

Mortality schedules can introduce you to both new people and new information—or maybe even the beginnings of an investigation when a cause of death is listed as “Poisoned.” While deaths tended to be underreported in the schedules, some states did not yet require that deaths be recorded and the mortality schedule could be the only record of a particular death.

The schedules are a bit scattered. Ancestry.com has approximately 100 out of the 170 known existing schedules in their *U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850–1880* database and will be adding more as they become available. You can find microfilms of schedules by state at NARA; just search “mortality schedules.”

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CW09_209

The Blue-Eyed Anomaly

Jeff Brickman always joked that he was a Scottish Jew. Really, he had no idea about his birth family's place of origin. But thanks to a DNA test, Jeff found out that his joke answer might be right.

BY HOWARD WOLINSKY



WITH BLUE EYES, STRAIGHT, LIGHT BROWN hair, freckles, and light skin, Jeff Brickman never blended in at family gatherings.

Standing 5' 8", he towered over his dad's family, where everyone had curly, dark brown hair and brown eyes. And in his mom's family, the brown-eyed men stood tall at 6' 4" and 6' 6."

"I just don't look like anyone in my family," says Jeff, who grew up with a Jewish family in Phoenix and Boston.

There was a reason he looked different from his parents, who were of Eastern European Jewish origin. Jeff had been adopted.

His adopted parents, whom he considers his "real" parents, were open about the adoption. And Jeff, who joined the U.S. Army after September 11 and is scheduled to be deployed to Iraq in January, says, "They're my parents. They're the ones who raised me. I never had the urge [to find my biological parents] and still don't."

But Jeff was driven to find his roots. He decided to have his DNA tested in hopes of discovering his family origins, though not necessarily his parents.

"I'm not looking for my parents. The whole interest for me was where I'm from genetically. Why do I look the way I do?"

Genetic testing can be used not only to confirm family relations and leap over the paper trail to probe deep ancestry going back to Africa, but male adoptees can use their genes to search for their paternal lines through surname projects from companies including Ancestry.com DNA, DNA Heritage, and Family Tree DNA. Both Ancestry.com DNA and Family Tree DNA allow you to enter results from other companies into their databases and search for matches and surnames.

Houston-based Family Tree DNA tested Jeff's Y-DNA—the all-male line—and his maternal/mitochondrial DNA, or mtDNA.

As to the male side, Max Blankfeld, the adoption expert and vice president of operations and marketing at Family Tree DNA, says 30 to 35 percent of the adoptees who use his service "end up finding their biological paternal line, which means that they get to know what their paternal

surname would be if they were not adopted.”

Blankfeld stresses that a Y-DNA test is not a paternity test. “Of course once they know a surname and can contact their matches, they can start their own research, independent of DNA, to try and find the father. But I am unaware of any of our customers having done so,” he says.

In Jeff’s case, Y-DNA testing turned up 15 matches, including close ones—and some surprises.

Blankfeld told Jeff that based on Y-DNA testing, he could say “with almost 100 percent certainty that your biological paternal line was a Beall and that line was of Scottish ancestry.”

The female line, which follows the mtDNA passed on from mothers to both their sons and daughters, is a different story. Because of surname changes on maternal lines and because mtDNA goes through relatively few changes as it passes from one generation to the next, it can’t easily be linked to a single family. Still, mtDNA is useful for picking up maternal ethnic and geographic leads, along with general ancestral background.

Blankfeld told Jeff, “I will also say that on your maternal line, you are probably of Jewish ancestry, as your mtDNA signature is consistent with several people who have declared Jewish ancestry and many others from Eastern Europe. Interestingly, since from the Jewish perspective the maternal line is what counts for one to be Jewish, you are not outside the group in your family get-togethers.”

Jeff had a hunch about his Scottish roots. “I would always say I am a Scottish Jew. So, what I was saying all along is probably true,” he says. He credits those Scottish roots for beckoning him to make a trip to Scotland after he graduated from college years ago.

Meanwhile, his wife, Margie, is making him a blanket with the Beall (pronounced “Bell”) bluish-plaid tartan fabric to take to Iraq. Jeff said he may even have a tartan yarmulke made to combine his family traditions.

And Jeff has been welcomed by the Bealls he has contacted online.

James Beall, a Utah native and professional truck driver, welcomed Jeff and gave him a breakdown on the family, including how the many branches related to Ninian Beall and his brothers, born in the 17th century in the lowlands of Fife, Scotland. They relocated to Maryland, though there are different theories on just how Ninian Beall arrived in America. We’ll leave those to Jeff’s new family to work out.

Said another Beall genetic cousin, “I see you’re in the military, so you will be proud to know that many of the Bealls were in the Revolutionary War. One researcher

once wrote that no other family had more men serving in that war than the Bealls. I looked at the Daughters of the American Revolution Roster books and counted [the Bealls] in the index just out of curiosity one day. There were more listed than any other family, but to state that with certainty is a broad statement. Not all militia were counted and records are missing. It still could be true, though.”

Jeff has been looking at photos of his genetic Beall cousins online and has concluded their eyes are similar to his and to Chase’s, his two-year-old son. It’s more than the blue color. “It’s the shape of the eyes, where they are set on the face, and how they are sunk into the face that looks the same to me,” he says. “I have not met anyone face to face yet, but from any of the pictures I have seen of Bealls, I look an awful lot like them. It’s pretty cool.”

Jeff decided to have his DNA tested in hopes of discovering his family origins, although not necessarily his birth parents. “The whole interest for me was where I’m from genetically. Why do I look the way I do?”

Jeff was born in Columbus, Ohio, in 1970. That’s about all he knows about his background. He said that the original files concerning his adoption were destroyed in a fire. Curious, Jeff went so far as to run a Google search on Bealls in Columbus but came up with a long list.

He insists he doesn’t want to meet the people who gave him up. But he agrees that it’s possible that through this DNA search, he might find his biological father and possibly through him, his biological mother. If he meets them, what would he say?

“I would say to them, ‘Thank you for giving me to a wonderful family.’ And the only question I would have is ‘What were the circumstances?’ And that’s it. I’m not looking for my parents. That’s not why I did it.”

Maybe Sergeant Jeff Brickman won’t ever find his parents, but, like many other genetic genealogy searchers, he has found his family and his roots.

HOWARD WOLINSKY is a Chicago writer who has been tracking his roots for more than 30 years. Reach him at <howard@wolinsky.com>.

Towns Memorialized

Yizkor books, memorials to Jewish communities lost in the Holocaust, may offer the breakthrough you need to understand more about past times and lives. Author Melody Amsel-Arieli explains how.

BY MELODY AMSEL-ARIELI



WALKING AWAY: The (Salamon) Findling family walks to the synagogue courtyard for an ordered deportation from Stropkov in May 1942. All family belongings are held in bags, wrapped in sheets, or worn. No shown family members survived. Photograph by Jójtech Sobek, courtesy Yad VaShem, Jerusalem.

EARLY TIMES: A group of girls pose on a log in the woods, c. 1940. Of the Stropkov girls pictured, only Regina Schwartz (front) survived the Holocaust. Courtesy of Regina Schwartz Zopf.

The town looked as they had left it; familiar stores and houses lined the main streets. Yet as they neared, they saw that everything had changed. They saw no loving faces, heard no children's voices ringing from cheder, heard no Yiddish in the streets. In those first few minutes—in broad daylight...the girls' souls were flooded with emptiness and darkness. There were no Jews.

—Between Galicia and Hungary: The Jews of Stropkov
(yizkor book by Melody Amsel-Arieli)

WHEN ARTHUR KURZWEIL, AUTHOR OF *From Generation to Generation*, first discovered the yizkor book of his family's hometown, Dobromil, Poland, he was amazed.

"There was a Dobromil. It did have dirt roads and little houses," Kurzweil noted. But he was in for a greater surprise. "I was absolutely stunned when I saw a picture of Avraham Abusch, my great-grandfather, as I looked at a group photo that took up an entire page. The discovery of that photograph said one thing to me, one thing which changed my life: You have a past."

Following the Holocaust, Jews around the world sought ways to memorialize their families. They named children for lost parents and siblings. They submitted commemorative Pages of Testimony to Jerusalem's Yad VaShem, where they served as virtual tombstones. In addition, many Jewish immigrant societies commemorated vanished communities by publishing noncommercial memorial volumes called yizkor books.

Yizkor, in Hebrew, means "remembrance." Over the years, these death tomes, which offer glimpses of life salvaged from archives, photo albums, and human memory, began to gather dust as mute witnesses to history. Today, however, with the growing interest in family research, yizkor books have found new life. Today they speak.

I had been dreaming about my own Amsels of Stropkov, Slovakia, for as long as I can remember. So I was excited when, at a memorial service, I met people who had known them personally. "So many perished," said an elderly woman. "I can remember their faces, but I'm forgetting their names."

Names? That wasn't a problem. I knew Stropkov's deportation documents listed more than 2,000 names. Naively, I struck a deal—if she would share her memories with me, I would write a book. And the result was a yizkor book in which I commemorated each Jew of Stropkov by name.

What You'll Find

Just like my book, every yizkor book represents a lost world, like Plonsk in Poland or Novo Sulita in Bessarabia. Although each differs in content, most yizkors contain any number of the following features:

- Town histories embellished with sketches, photos, vintage maps, and official documents
- Jewish history of the town stretching back from its earliest known days until the Holocaust year
- Descriptions and photos of Jewish landmarks, like synagogues, study houses, and ritual baths
- Pages of biographical information and stories of pre-war community leaders, businessmen, and craftsmen
- Photos of townspeople including housewives, school children, farmers, and merchants; local talent like jokesters, violin prodigies, and cantors may rate special entries
- Snapshots of the town's Zionist, Socialist, youth, and professional organizations
- Personal essays by and about the townspeople and leaders

Yizkors then continue by moving into the former community's horrific experience during the Holocaust. Survivors recount their town's anti-Jewish economic policies, growing social isolation, establishment of ghettos, executions, resistance, and finally the town's grim path toward annihilation. Copies of Holocaust-era documents, like mandatory accounts of fiscal worth, censuses, partisan lists, legal writs, and transport lists are included, as are photos.

There are the survival stories: hair-raising tales of years hiding beneath forest floors, in hay lofts, and in chicken coops; posing as Christians; joining partisan groups; and outlasting death camps. Many yizkor books also share post-war experiences, survivors' accounts of their treks home, their search for family and friends—their return to life.

Necrologies and lists of Holocaust victims, as well as black-framed, paid death notices may come next. Death notices can commemorate entire families and often include photos. Lists may be arranged alphabetically or in family groups. Some books also include survivors, sometimes with their addresses at the time of publication.

Locating Yizkors

Since yizkor books were published in limited editions for special interest groups, locating copies can prove challenging. First, you must determine if a community has been memorialized. Gary Mokotoff, co-author of *Where We Once Walked: A Guide to the Jewish Communities*

Destroyed in the Holocaust, notes that before the war, Jews were scattered in nearly 24,000 communities across Europe. Yet only some 1,000 community yizkor books are known to exist, most in private hands. Several Jewish bookstores hold ever-changing inventories of single copies, plus a number of libraries worldwide maintain collections open to the public. And today, more than 60 years after the Holocaust, researchers are still compiling yizkor books.

If you find a yizkor book, be prepared: most are written in Hebrew, Yiddish, or a combination of languages. The JewishGen Yizkor Book Project features a selection of English translations online. Through an agreement between Ancestry.com and JewishGen, you can also search JewishGen's Yizkor Book Necrology database at Ancestry.com.

Retrieving information can also prove difficult. Names, dependent on original languages and local pronunciations, may have variable spellings. Many yizkors, besides being written in folksy, nonprofessional style, also lack indexes.

Researchers must scour every line for family references and clues, including photos that reveal dress and hair styles, customs, background scenes, and family resemblances. Mention of letters from America or Prague may indicate broad migration patterns or long-lost cousins. Death notices may illuminate maiden names and family lines. Publishing committees may share additional names of victims and survivors, unpublished materials and photos, or information about annual memorial services.

Is it worth the trouble? Yes. You'll understand why when you hold your yizkor book, "your ancestral town," in your hands. It's a humbling experience.

MELODY AMSEL-ARIELI, in researching her yizkor book, *Between Galicia and Hungary: The Jews of Stropkov, visited archives and Holocaust survivors across Israel, Slovakia, and America*. Learn more at <<http://amselbird.tripod.com>>.

How to Find Yizkor Books

Nearly all the 1,000 known yizkor books appear in the *Yizkor Book Database* at JewishGen.com. The site offers bibliographies of each volume and notes which libraries have copies. The New York Public Library also maintains a free online collection of digital yizkors.

If your village isn't represented by a yizkor book, turn to JewishGen's Shtetl Seeker, available at Ancestry.com, to see if there's another name for the town or to search for a nearby, larger town. Rural Jews, besides sharing a way of life similar to their town cousins, often shared their fate.

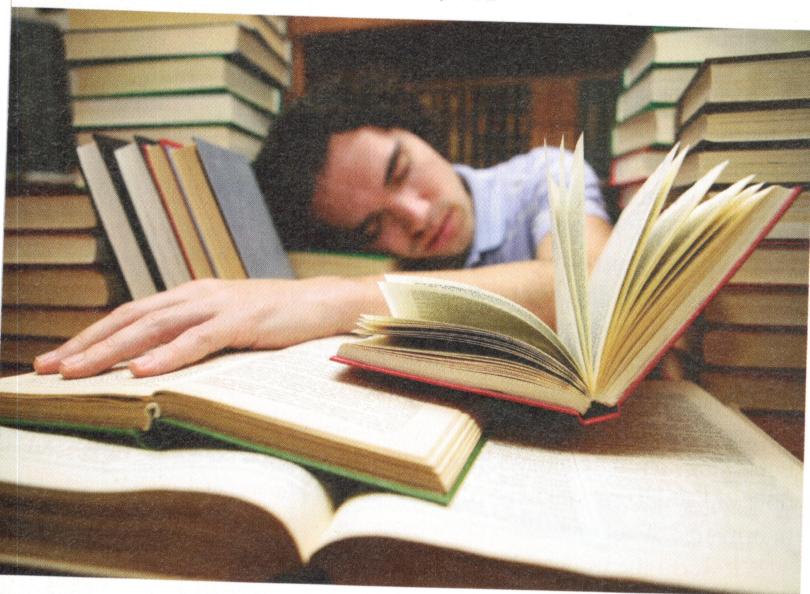
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What Do We Do When There's No Answer?

Answering questions is what family history research is all about. But sometimes we pose a question that there just seems to be no answer to. So how do you find the information you're seeking?

BY DONN DEVINE, CG, CGL



"WHO ARE THE PARENTS of this child?"

There's nothing more satisfying in family history research than finding a reliable record that gives direct answer to your question. Find a birth certificate or baptismal record with the parents' names and you have your answer. Technically speaking, this is direct evidence because it directly answers the question.

But what if no such record can be found? When you search for ancestors earlier than the 19th century, you'll frequently find they were born before births were registered in local health offices. When there's no available baptism record, no will or court record that names the child or his parents and their relationship, you need to find another means of answering the question.

In those situations, you can find your answer by looking at other evidence that relates to the family, even if that evidence doesn't directly state the child's parents.

Consider the following: Stephen Robertson appears in the 1870 census. He is 14 years old and resides in the

household of Horace Robertson, 36. Also in the house are Sarah, 35; Bessie, 11; Sallie, 9; and George, 5. They're all named Robertson. Horace and Sarah may be Stephen's parents, but the 1870 census doesn't state relationship to the head of household, so you can't rule out other relationships (stepson, nephew) that might explain Stephen's presence.

By 1880, when the census states relationship, Stephen, age 24, is married and heading his own household. Horace heads a household with daughters Bessie, 21, and Sallie, 19, and son, George, 15. In 1882, Bessie's marriage license application includes an affidavit in which Stephen swears he is Bessie's brother and she is of age to marry.

Putting the two pieces of evidence together—the 1880 census stating that Bessie is Horace's daughter and Stephen's 1882 affidavit in which he swears he is Bessie's brother, not stepbrother or half-brother or cousin—you can conclude that Horace is also Stephen's father. You have established that fact via indirect evidence.

Genealogical conclusions based on indirect evidence can be as solid as answers found in direct evidence. By putting the facts together, applying logic, and explaining how you reached your conclusion, you can answer the question. If your evidence and reasoning also convinces others, you've proven the matter to their satisfaction. Just remember to cite the original sources and include a written explanation of how you came to your conclusion for future researchers.

And is Sarah the mother of Stephen? Based on the evidence, the answer is still unknown. Her relationship to Stephen's sister Bessie is never offered.

DONN DEVINE, CG, CGL, currently chairs the National Genealogical Society's Standards Committee. For more information about the use of indirect evidence, Donn recommends reading the "Genealogical Proof Standard" section in the BCG Genealogical Standards Manual (Ancestry, 2000).

Can I Cut Through a Murky German Trail to Find Grandma?

BY NICHOLE MARTINSON



IT WAS NEVER MY INTENT to conjure up any family ghosts when I came to live in Germany. But it seems to be happening anyway.

You see, I am a Californian of German descent.

My father was born in post-World War II Nürnberg, where he was placed in an orphanage, adopted by Americans, and brought to the United States. That's about all I knew of my German family, until recently.

Once I got to Germany, I learned that my father wasn't alone in that orphanage—he had a sister. Which means I have an aunt. She lives in Germany, so I looked her up. Through her, I have learned the circumstances—still rumors, of course, with no facts to back them up yet—surrounding their placement in the orphanage and adoptions.

Now I'm curious.

Armed with a handful of clues, I set out to learn more about my grandmother, Rosemarie Nissen.

The obstacles are huge, people have died, and my search spans continents. East Prussia no longer exists, and its records have been destroyed. Plus, the German *Beamters*, civil servants, are said to be neither civil nor serving.

I start at the beginning, with my father's birth certificate. I've heard rumors but have never seen this infamous "piece of toilet paper" as my mother called it, mostly because of its size and paucity of information. I want to see this toilet tissue for myself, to see if what I'd been told is confirmed in black and white.

I search the Internet for the Standesamt in Nürnberg. Finding the website, I send my request, careful to include everything

I know about my father's birth, including his mother's name.

To my surprise, I receive a swift response asking whether I will be picking up the record, or if it should be mailed. A couple of days and 12 Euros later, it arrives. I rip open the envelope and scan its contents.

The usual information is there: son, with my father's name typed in; city and date of birth; and his mother's name: Elfriede Kienappel of Thüringen.

Who?

Handwritten notes give adoption information and my father's new last name. In the top corner, printed in an older German script, I can decipher the name I expect to see, Rosemarie Nissen of Königsberg, East Prussia, along with something about false identities.

This is no mere scrap of toilet paper. This is an informational goldmine with clues to a murky past scribbled in the margins in even murkier German.

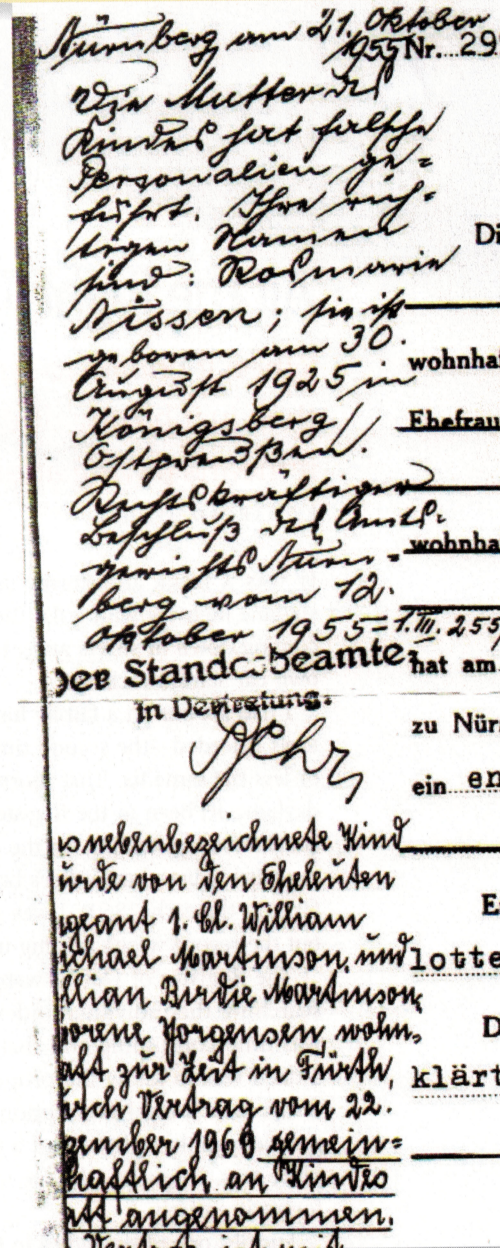
My German roots have always been this great unknown. But now I know something—my past comes with at least one twist that I want to straighten out. Why did Rosemarie Nissen become Elfriede Kienappel—or vice versa? My next step is to find records that tell that story.

Visit *Family History Diary* at <www.ancestry.com> to read Nichole's research notes and give her your ideas about where she should look. And read her next *Family History Diary* in the March/April 2009 issue of *Ancestry* magazine.

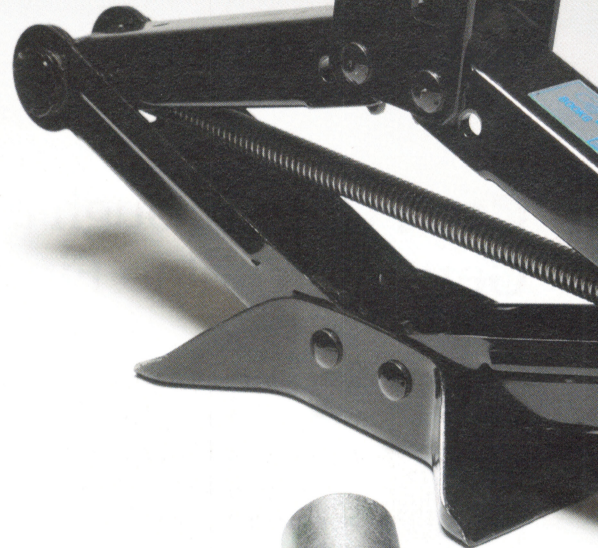
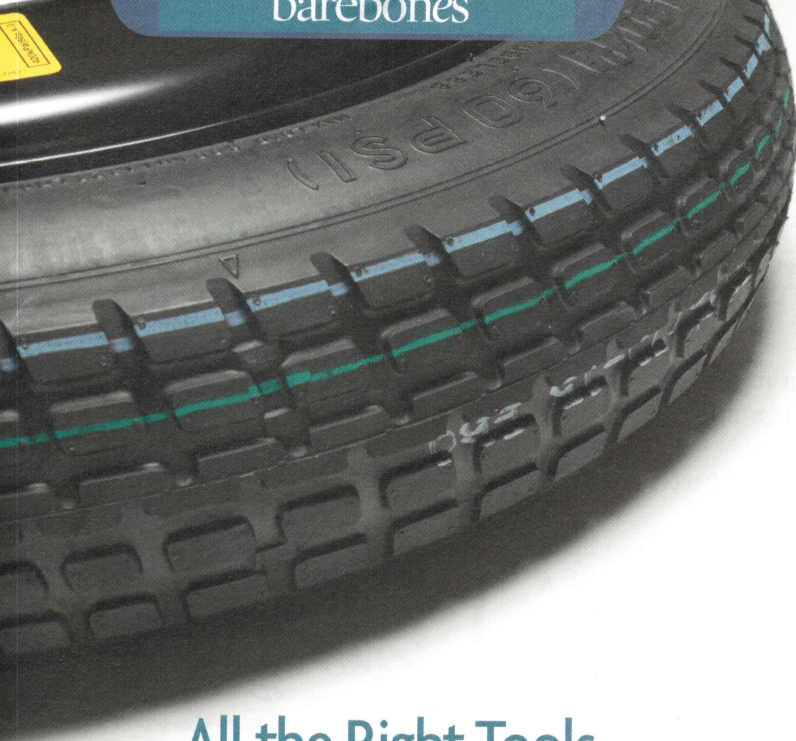
To do: Find out why Dad was placed in German orphanage
 — Discover other unknown family members
 — Contact family members
 — Ask questions to learn more family details
 — Find father's birth certificate
 — Extract details from dad's birth certificate

Grandma had another name. And a false identity!!

Next: Why did Grandma change her name? And was she really using a false identity?



WHAT DOES IT SAY? To see a bigger of image the birth certificate Nichole found, visit <www.ancestrymagazine.com>.



All the Right Tools

When it comes to family history, being prepared means more than just having directions to the nearest courthouse. Sometimes it means paying attention to even the smallest details.

BY HAROLD HENDERSON

IT WAS A DARK and stormy night. I was on the side of a six-lane highway with a flat tire and no jack. The rain was coming down in sheets and each time a car passed, my own car started rocking.

I had set out on a family history road trip without the tools I needed—the second time that day I'd been in more or less the same fix. That morning it was indoors in full daylight. I'd been in the Register of Deeds office of a Wisconsin county, looking for the deed that would document my wife's great-grandfather's brother-in-law's purchase of a farm in the early 1860s. I was sure he'd bought it in 1862, but the record wasn't turning up.

The Register of Deeds' website had warned that searching the individual indexes of its many volumes was time-consuming and that the easiest way to find a deed was to know the property's legal description. I didn't have a legal description—that would be pages of gobbledygook, right? I had a vague idea of where the place was. I figured I'd have to do it the hard way. Or forget it entirely.

Luckily, one of the ladies in the office took pity on me. She pulled out a copy of the 1877 county plat book with a map of each township showing the property owners. I'd seen another copy in the library, and even spotted my

family there, in the lower right-hand corner of Section 16.

When I pointed to the spot in the plat map, she quickly pulled something called the "tract index" off the shelf. Most Midwestern townships are divided into 640-acre sections, which are then divided into 160-acre quarters, and then divided further into 40-acre quarters. For each 40-acre section, the index lists all the property transactions separately. All I needed to do was eyeball the plat map, figure out which quarter of which quarter of Section 16 my folks were in and go from there. I quickly found the deed (actually two deeds, but that's another mystery).

You can't always rely on the kindness of strangers—eventually it was my own cell phone and AAA that got me off the side of the road. But earlier that day in the county office, it was a stranger who set me straight and also taught me a lesson: to pack all the needed tools, including knowledge. Because the more you know, the more you can learn. And I now know that an old plat book is worth more than just a passing glance.

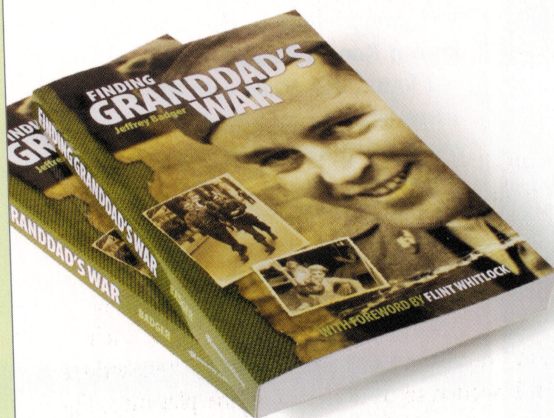
HAROLD HENDERSON is a family historian living in Indiana.

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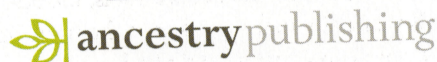
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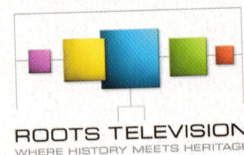
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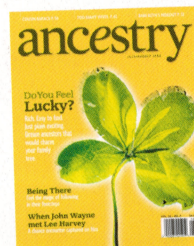
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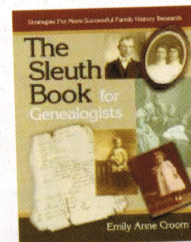
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Winning One for the Real Gipper

BY ARTHUR RICHARD CHAMBERLIN III

MY GRANDFATHER ARTHUR RICHARD Chamberlin (middle row, left) was a member of the Calumet (Michigan) High School basketball team in 1911. He was quite an athlete in high school and played a number of other sports, as did the team member just behind him—George Gipp.

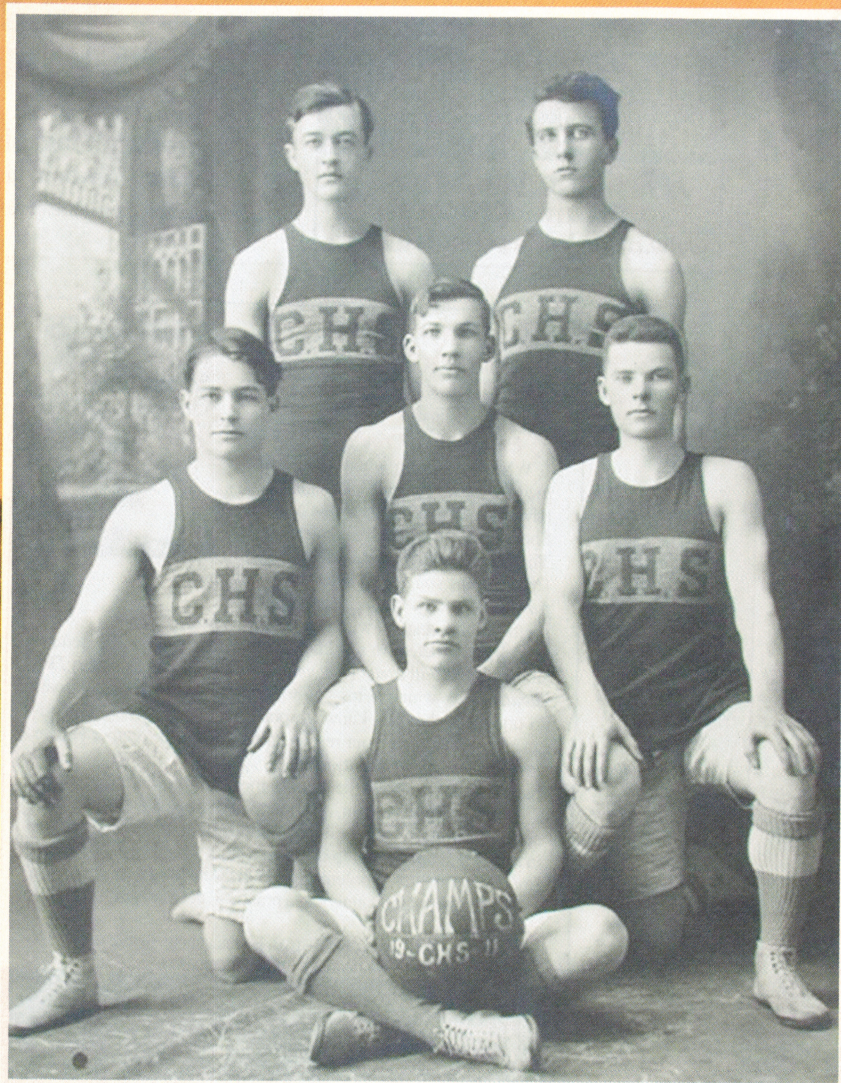
My grandfather went from Calumet to France to serve in WWI as a sergeant in Company A,

107th Engineers, 32nd Division. I have the little diary he carried all over France with him. You might think he would have written about the “action” or the awful things he saw, but it mainly covers what he had for breakfast and speculates about where his next meal might come from.

George Gipp went on to fame as a football player at Notre Dame, where he set numerous

records but perhaps became most famous as “the Gipper,” who posthumously inspired a team coached by Knute Rockne on to victory and who was immortalized in the well-known Ronald Reagan movie.

I found this photo with the name labels in my grandfather’s WWI footlocker, which I still have.



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Have a photo of your ancestor—in history? Submit your *Backstory* photo and all the details to editor@ancestrymagazine.com. If we publish your photo, you'll earn \$100.

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